

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST
IN PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, July 28.

INDIAN TROOPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. Maclean asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Imperial and Indian Governments had, as stated in a Reuters telegram from Simla, made preliminary arrangements for the despatch of a force of 10,000 men from India for service in South Africa in the event of hostilities breaking out there; whether her Majesty's Government had also received offers of military aid against the South African Republic from the Federated Malay States in Indo-China and from Houssa volunteers in West Africa; and whether the Government intended, in any case, to employ either Indian or black troops in a war against white men in South Africa.

Mr. Balfour: In answer to the questions of my hon. friend I have to say that, if the unhappy event to which he refers should occur, there is no intention of using any but white troops.

Monday, July 31.

WEI-HAI-WEI.—Sir John Colomb asked the Under-Secretary of State for War: Whether Colonel Bower, of the Indian Staff Corps, is now in military command at Wei-hai-wei; and whether the War Office proposes to make Wei-hai-wei a Royal Engineer command; and if so, whether this officer of the Indian Staff Corps will be dispossessed of the command by conferring on some junior officer of Royal Engineers such superior local rank as may be necessary to effect that purpose in accordance with the method adopted by the War Office at Esquimaux to displace the officer of Royal Marine Artillery in command at that place by his junior in the Royal Engineers.

Mr. Wyndham: Colonel Bower, who commands the Chinese battalion which is being raised at Wei-hai-wei, is the senior military officer now on the spot, but an officer of Royal Engineers senior to him has been selected for the military command at Wei-hai-wei.

Tuesday, August 1.

THE CASE OF MAJOR PARSONS.—Mr. Jeffreys asked the Secretary of State for India: Will he explain why Major Parsons has been promoted by the authorities in Burma to be a deputy commissioner of the first grade over the heads of all other officers in other grades who were senior to Major Parsons, and whether he has sanctioned this action of the Burma authorities?

Lord G. Hamilton: The circumstances of Major Parsons' case, which was brought before me by the Government of India in October 1896, were very complicated and the question as to the position which he ought to hold in the service was a difficult one. After careful consideration, I decided that he should be treated as a supernumerary in every grade above the lowest to which he might be appointed. The effect of this decision, which appears to have been duly carried out, is that his own reasonable expectations will be fulfilled, but that his successive promotions have not interfered, and will not interfere, with those of the other officers in the Burma Commission.

ENTERIC FEVER IN INDIA.—General Russell asked the Secretary for India whether his attention had been called to the yearly increasing virulence of typhoid fever in India, although a few years ago this disease was almost unknown in that country, and whether any report had been received by the Government of India as a result of the investigations which, more than two years ago, he stated were then being conducted into the causes of this disease; and, if so, whether this report would be laid upon the table of the House.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have observed with regret the increasing prevalence of enteric fever in India, a subject which is constantly engaging the attention of the Government of India. I would point out, however, that the virulence of the disease, as tested by the ratio between the number of deaths and the number of admissions to hospital per 1,000 of the British troops in India, has decreased. From 1878 to 1883 it was nearly one to two; from 1884 to 1888 about one to three; since then not much more than one to four. No general report has been issued as a result of the investigations which are being pursued into the origin of the enteric fever in cantonments in India. But I have received special report from the Government of India on the sanitary conditions of certain cantonments, which have been made the subject of individual investigation. Steps have been taken to remedy the defects reported. With reference to the reply which I gave to my hon. and gallant friend's question of Feb. 23 last, I may state that voluntary inoculations against enteric fever at the public expense among British troops in India has now been sanctioned.

WAZIRISTAN.—Mr. Pickersgill asked the Secretary of State for India: What is the distance between Wano in the Waziri country (the place to which the baggage train of Mr. Watson, the Indian Government's political officer, was proceeding when attacked by Waziris on July 21), and the western frontier line of British India; what is the distance between Wano and Dera Ismail Khan; what is the number and status of Indian Government troops now stationed at or near Wano, and at other points in the Waziri country; what political and civil officers are being maintained by us in that foreign territory; and is there any near prospect of these forces and officers being withdrawn from Waziristan, in accordance with the recently indicated policy of the Government to reduce our occupation of Afghan tribal territory?

Lord G. Hamilton: The distance between Wano and the station of Tank, on the borders of the British district of Dera Ismail Khan, is sixty-five miles. The distance to Dera Ismail Khan headquarters of the district is 115 miles. There are 1,050 men in the nominal strength of the Wano garrison of Indian Government troops, and at Jandola and Sarveka there are about 410 more. These numbers exclude the tribal levies and border militia. In the Tochi valley there are 2,300 native troops. One European political officer, an assistant, and five Naib Tahsildars, besides their office establishments, are stationed in Southern Waziristan at or near Wano. The question of substituting militia for troops at Wano and in the neighbourhood, is under the consideration of the Viceroy. The region in question is not Afghan territory, being within the boundaries of the area settled by the Durand Agreement to be under the influence of the Indian Government.

EUROPEAN PRISONERS IN INDIA.—Mr. Samuel Smith asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Government will take into practical consideration the special hardships which long-term European prisoners now suffer in India owing to their inability to bear the climatal effects under gaol conditions, as compared with the native prisoners around them; and whether the Government will locate this particular class in some prison in the hill districts.

Lord G. Hamilton: This question has been carefully considered, but in view of the small numbers of the class of prisoners to whom it refers, and of the great expense and other disadvantages of providing separate gaols for them, it has been decided to leave matters as they are; more especially as the accommodation provided for European prisoners had been very favourably reported upon by expert authorities. It should also be remembered that the Courts, in sentencing Europeans, take into consideration the effects of climate, and that such prisoners, if their health requires it, can be transferred to the United Kingdom under an Act of 1884.

A CHIEF COURT FOR BURMA.—Mr. Pickersgill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether it is in contemplation to establish a Chief Court in Burma; and whether, before that step is taken, an opportunity will be afforded to this House to pronounce upon the desirability of establishing a High Court instead of a Chief Court in that country.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am in correspondence with the Government of India in regard to the proposal to establish Chief Court in Burma. I am not prepared to postpone a decision on the subject until this House has discussed the question whether a High Court or a Chief Court is more desirable for the province. But I may observe that legislation in Parliament would be necessary to enable another High Court to be established in India.

Thursday, August 3.

NATIVE AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURES.—Mr. Harwood asked the Secretary for India if it was the practice of the Indian Government to treat Indian manufacturers of iron, and of other products purchased by the Government, on equal terms with British or Continental manufacturers, as ordered by paragraph 28, of resolution 185, January 1883.

Lord G. Hamilton: In November 1895 I instructed the Government of India to be careful to avoid giving a preference to either British or Indian goods as such; and, as far as I am aware, they have acted and are acting accordingly.

ACCOMMODATION FOR LASCARS.—Mr. Havelock Wilson asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he was now in a position to state if the 210th section of the Merchant Shipping Act, which dealt with the accommodation of seamen on board ship, applied to Lascar and other native seamen in the same manner as it applied to seamen engaged on board of British vessels registered in ports of the United Kingdom; and whether he was now in the position to give the opinion of the law officers of the Crown in accordance with the promise made some months ago.

Mr. Long (for Mr. Ritchie): Yes, sir. The Board of Trade are now in possession of the opinion of the law officers of the Crown with regard to the point to which the hon. members refers. The opinion is to the effect that the Board have acted properly in declining to allow and deduction from tonnage in respect of Lascar crew space which is not in accordance with the requirements of section 210 of the Merchant Shipping Act. Further, that the question whether proceedings should be taken to enforce these requirements is one for the consideration of the Board of Trade under all the circumstances of the case, among which are the provisions of section 25 of the Imperial Act of 4 Geo. IV., c. 80, and the conflicting provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Acts. At the moment I can only say that the matter in all its bearings should receive very careful consideration, and that I have already placed myself in communication with the India Office with a view of securing, if possible, an assimilation of the Indian to the Imperial law on the subject.

Mr. Havelock Wilson said he wanted to know whether the law officers of the Crown advised that the company were breaking the law is not providing for Lascars the same accommodation as the British seamen.

Mr. Long said he could not give any further answer in the temporary absence of his right hon. friend.

Mr. Havelock Wilson said he had been promised answer to the question for over four months. He would take an early opportunity to call attention to the matter.

GUARANTEED INDIAN RAILWAY.—Mr. Souttar asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he could state the dates at which, within the next two years, notice should be given to the several guaranteed or subsidised Indian railways for the termination or revision of their existing contracts or agreements with the Government of India or Secretary of State; and whether due care would be taken in any revision or renewal of these agreements so to limit the new terms as to safeguard the interests of the Government and taxpayers of India.

Lord G. Hamilton: Within the next two years' notice of termination of contract may be given to one guaranteed Indian railway company—viz., the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company—on any day within six months after Aug. 17, 1899. The contract with the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway Company for the completion and working of the Lucknow Bareilly State Railway may be terminated on Dec. 31, 1900, or on Dec. 31 in any subsequent year, by giving not less than twelve months' previous notice. In any revision of contracts with Indian railway companies the interests of the Government and taxpayers of India will be duly safeguarded.

At the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Portsmouth on Tuesday, a Madras native moved a resolution protesting against the whole of the medical appointments in India being given to the Indian Medical Service. The resolution was negatived. After a paper by Sir Dyce Duckworth, the Association adopted resolutions, urging that the physical examination of army candidates should precede the educational examination, that soldiers should not serve in the tropics before the age of 22; that the physical standard for admission to the Service requires reconsideration.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

DAMAGE to the amount of £100,000 was caused by a great outbreak of fire in the timber yards in Victoria Dock, Hull.

FOUR accomplices of the assassin of President Hureaux have been arrested and shot. The situation at Port au Prince is improving.

GRODNO, the second city of importance in Lithuania, has been devastated by fire which has destroyed the western half of the town.

The student, named Joshi, who has been indicted for using a false cheque, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the second division.

THIRTY new cases of plague were reported at Mauritius last week, 21 of which were fatal. Six fresh cases occurred at Alexandria during the week.

The Edinburgh University on Tuesday conferred in absentia the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Sayed Mahomed Dooddeen Khan of Delhi.

The Home Secretary admitted, in reply to a question on Monday, that representations had been made in favour of Mrs. Maybrick by the American Government.

The Government report shows that the number of lunatics in England and Wales at the beginning of the present year was 105,085, an increase of over three thousand.

The Vienna papers call attention to the fact that Russia has quietly and unobtrusively completed the formation of an entire army in Central Asia. The infantry alone number some 65,000.

The British Engineers, who have constructed the first section of the Lohan Railway have received notice of the termination of their engagements. French Engineers are shortly expected.

The death-rate in 33 great towns of England and Wales rose last week to 20.7; the London rate was 21.6. Diarrhoea and dysentery, resulting from the prolonged excessive heat, especially among babies, are the principal causes of the increase.

The Czar has conferred the Order of St. Alexander on the principal French Delegate, M. Bourgeois. Some French journals affirm that the object of M. Delcasse's visit to St. Petersburg is to discuss a contemplated visit at next year's Exhibition.

THE TRANSVAAL QUESTION.

THE DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

In the Transvaal debate, Lord Kimberley admitted that the situation was, in the last degree, unsatisfactory, and a standing danger to the whole of South Africa; still, allowance might be made for the embarrassing position the Burghers were placed in by the irruption of a motley population into the mining districts. He praised Messrs. Schreiner and Hofmeyer, for using their influence with the Boer Government and disbelieving the reports of disloyalty among the Queen's duty subjects. He associated himself with Sir Campbell-Bannerman in saying that nothing had yet occurred to justify war or consider it imminent. Lord Salisbury, in the course of a rather short speech, said that ever since 1881, President Kruger's sole efforts had been to separate the English and Republican Governments, to drive two nations into separate camps, and give the Dutch superiority, to which their numbers did not entitle them, while the English were reduced to the condition almost of a conquered and, certainly, of a subjugated race. To some extent he could make allowance for President Kruger's apprehensions at the irruption of the gold diggers of 1886, but he blamed him because he neglected to consult the English Government respecting the way in which this marvellous phenomenon of irruption could be dealt with. We had to rescue British subjects from treatment which we should not think it right to endure in any country, even where no conventions existed.

DEBATE IN THE COMMONS.

In the Commons, Colonel Sanderson said he did not believe the country wanted war, but it ought to be understood in the Transvaal that we were ready to employ force, if moral suasion were ineffective.

Mr. Dillon ascribed the unrest in the Transvaal to the machinations of the South African League, and said that Sir A. Milner's despatches were more worthy of the American Yellow Journalist than of a statesman.

Mr. Courtney was glad to hear from Mr. Balfour that only white men would be employed if war occurred, because it got rid of the West African troops, Malays and special men under Mr. Chamberlain's personal influence and direction.

Mr. Chamberlain: Does the right hon. gentleman believe I suggested these things? Mr. Courtney: Not at all; but these people thought they were doing what would be agreeable to him.

Mr. Chamberlain: It was very agreeable to me.

Mr. Courtney said that the military men wanted to wipe out Majuba Hill. He suggested that President Kruger would do well to submit to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council some of the disputed questions.

Two other Unionists, Captain Bethell and Mr. Maclean, criticised the Colonial Secretary's policy. Mr. Maclean declared that if Mr. Chamberlain restrained himself from writing another Despatch to President Kruger for nine months the peace of the Empire would be preserved. Two advanced Liberals, Messrs. Mendl and Elias Griffiths, spoke strongly in Mr. Chamberlain's favour, the latter making a remarkable speech.

SOUTHERWOOD, who was convicted last month by a justice of the peace of Bangalore on a charge of misappropriating plague funds and fined Rs. 550, has been called upon by the High Court of Madras to show cause why sentence of imprisonment should not be passed.

MR. PERCIVAL SPENCER, with a companion, went on a balloon voyage from the Crysta Palace across the Channel on Saturday. When ten miles from shore, and all extraneous weight had been thrown over to prevent the balloon sinking, the anchor, weighing seven pounds, was dropped into the sea. They again ascended and resumed the expedition for a few moments. Shortly afterwards it again began to fall at the rate of 500 feet per minute, but when still at an altitude of 7,000 feet, was over land. The descent was completed a mile and a half inland.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE CASE.

RANGOON, 18th AUGUST.

TO-DAY all the accused soldiers, except Martin, who is in hospital, were committed for trial at the Sessions, by Major Wyllie, Cantonment Magistrate.

Two witnesses were examined to-day.

Major Morse, commanding the battalion from April 24th to July 21st, said that before Sullivan made his statement, notes of which were taken in the orderly room by the Adjutant some men had been examined, amongst them Corporal Rodgers, accused. That was before the general examination of all the men. On the first occasion Rodgers denied being at the scene of the occurrence but after Sullivan's evidence was taken, Rodgers admitted being there, but said he saw nothing. Witness told the Adjutant to note this point.

Private Sullivan, recalled, said that in his previous statement he said he could not swear as to the order in which he saw the accused with the woman in the nullah. By that he meant he could not swear as to Comber, whom he saw coming away. He swore as to Johnson, Thorpe, Martin, Rodgers, Boulter and Goff in this order. He saw the woman shifted from the bank into the nullah by Rodgers and Martin with the help of two others.

The Sessions opens on the 21st instant, but it is probable that the hearing of the outrage case will not begin till the 28th instant.

PIONEER.—The following extract from an appeal to the Philippines, which appears in an American paper under the heading, "The Hand of Brotherhood reaches across the Briny Ocean," will speak for itself:—

THE HAND OF BROTHERHOOD.

"You fellows don't know what a good thing you are missing by not wanting to become citizens of this grand country of ours. There isn't anything like it under the sun. You ought to send a delegation over here to see us—this land of the free—land of churches and 40,000 licensed saloons, bibles, forts and guns; houses of prayer and licensed houses of prostitution; millionaires and paupers; theologians and thieves; libertines and liars; Christians and chain-gangs; politicians and poverty; schools and scallwags; trusts and tramps; money and misery; homes and hunger; virtue and vice. A land where you can get a good Bible for 15 cents, and a bad drink of whiskey for 5 cents; where we have a Congress of 500 men to make laws and a Supreme Court of nine men to set them aside; where good whiskey makes bad men and bad men make good whiskey; where newspapers are paid for suppressing the truth and made rich for teaching a lie; where we spend \$5,000 to bury a Congressman who is rich and \$10 to put away a workman who is poor; where to be honest is to be called a crank; where we pay \$15,000 for a dog and 15 cents a dozen to a poor woman for making shirts; where we teach the untutored Indian eternal life from the Bible and kill him with bad whiskey; where the cheque-book talks, sin stalks in broad daylight, justice is asleep, crime runs amuck, corruption permeates our whole social and political fabric, and devil laughs from every street corner. Come to us, Filippies; we have got more guns, more Bibles, and more whiskey than any two shows on earth."

INTERESTING NOTES.

An Italian named Jesse Brandani, who left Paris in 1890, without a cent in his pocket to make a tour round the world in ten years, has just arrived in Singapore, after having visited Africa, North and South America, Europe, Asia, Central Asia, Japan and China. From Singapore he goes to Java, thence to Australia, and will return to Paris in time for the Exhibition next year, where he is to deliver a lecture on his globe trotting experiences.

ONE recalls the method of discovering a thief by chewing rice, said to have been practised in the East. But it is not necessary to go so far to find a more remarkable method of thief catching, and one not so well supported by sound reason. A lady in Paris is reported to have lost her purse in a dress-maker's establishment. She had all the young ladies of the establishment called in, so it is seriously reported, and demanded from each one a lock of her hair. The tokens were then pinned to pieces of paper bearing the owner's names; and as the customer left the establishment she remarked, "My purse has been stolen, but as I do not wish to subject innocent girls to the humiliation of being searched, I intend early to-morrow morning to submit your hair and hand-writings to a somnambulist and clairvoyant, who will tell me which of you is the thief." In the course of the evening the lady received an anonymous parcel, containing intact the purse with its contents.

MICROBES and new women are the two great factors in modern life, and when the two come together they can vanquish even a medical man, as a strange story from Hungary shows. There is a young "doctress" of medicine in Hungary who has the most magnificent hair, and she was anxious to follow the hospital operations of a certain famous surgeon. However, she found admission denied her, and on her inquiring why, the surgeon said that she had too much hair, that hair was a home for microbes, and so she might render his best operations dangerous to the patient. The girl was ardent on the pursuit of science, so she cropped her hair short. But it happened that one of the other hospital surgeons had a magnificent beard, so the "doctress" went to the great surgeon and said "Doctor, you made me cut off my hair, but you allow one of your assistants to come to your operations wearing a long beard. Does not a beard nourish microbes as much as hair?" The great surgeon acknowledged the justice of her contention, and said that his colleague should either shave or leave the hospital. But the young surgeon was not so keen in the pursuit of science as the "doctress"; he refused to cut off his cherished beard, and preferred to leave the hospital, and go, microbes and all, somewhere else.

SEVERE storms have swept over the United States, destroying the crops in the Mississippi Valley, and causing great loss of life on the coast of Florida, where five towns have been wrecked.

MONSOON AND AGRICULTURE.

A BOMBAY telegram of the 19th instant, says:—The monsoon current both on the West and Malabar Coasts continues to be weak and a few local light scattered showers are likely along the coast from Cochin to Bombay. A few scattered showers are also likely at inland stations in the Presidency and at northerly stations in the Madras Presidency. The mail steamer Sutlej, which left Aden on the 13th, reports having experienced up to longitude 53° E. light variable and moderate to gentle south westerly winds and fine weather; thence to longitude 60° E. fresh to strong monsoon and a considerable sea; and from thence to arrival in port this morning a light to gentle monsoon and cloudy weather.

On Thursday night more rain fell at Cawnpore and also early this morning. There were heavy showers between 4 and 8 A.M.

The latest official season report of Mysore for the week ending 8th instant shows that 30 cents of rain fell in the civil military station and only slight rain in parts of the province. Crops are said to be withering. Prices have risen slightly in seven districts. Coorg had 83 cents, commencing from the 7th. Rice planting has been resumed.

A Simla telegram of the 19th instant, says:—Nearly 7,000 persons have now emigrated from Ajmere, Merwara; 8,000 are on relief in Marwar and 16,000 in Merwara, and the prospects in Rajputana are decidedly discouraging.

PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THERE were 8 cases of plague and 8 deaths reported on Saturday last, distributed over the various wards as follows:—1 and 1 in No. 2; 1 and 1 in No. 9; 3 and 3 in No. 19; 1 and 1 in No. 22; and 1 and 1 in No. 25. The total mortality was 64 as against 51, the mean of the last five years. First case Wards 9 and 20 with 6 deaths, followed by Wards 8 and 22 with 5 each.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

ON Friday there were nine plague attacks and seven plague deaths, the total mortality being 88, against 126 last year and 124 in 1897.

MORTALITY IN POONA.

ON Friday 160 cases and 130 deaths occurred in the city, the total mortality being 148. In the cantonment there were nine cases and 17 deaths, in the suburban area seven cases and five deaths, and in the district 59 cases and 39 deaths. On Monday 143 cases and 129 deaths were recorded in the city, the total mortality being 141. In the cantonment there were 17 cases and 17 deaths, in the suburban area six cases and three deaths, and in the district 42 cases and 26 deaths.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AT BANGALORE.—The District Magistrate has issued a notice warning the people against frequent Bangalore city as plague cases continue to occur there and against allowing persons from the city coming into the cantonment. If plague reappears here segregation and detention will be enforced.

WEEKLY RETURNS FROM MYSORE.

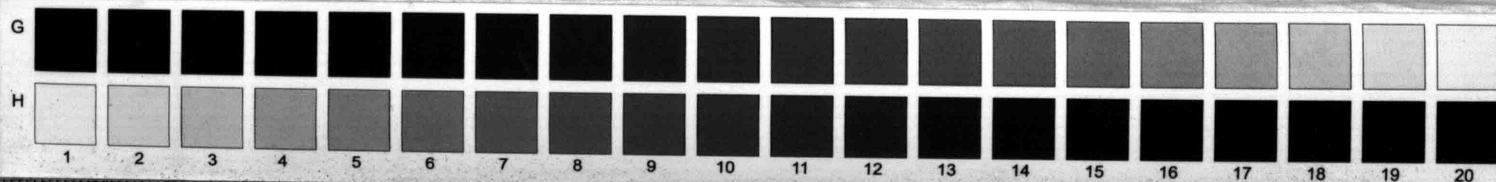
THE Plague Commissioner's report of plague in the Mysore State for the week ending the 11th instant closes a period of exactly 12 months, the first case having occurred in the civil and military station on the 12th of August last, and two cases in the city the following day. The total cases and deaths imported and indigenous for the year are:—At Bangalore City 3,377 cases and 2,787 deaths, Bangalore Cantonment 4,040 cases and 3,338 deaths, Mysore City 2,759 cases and 2,238 deaths, Mysore District 956 cases and 704 deaths, Bangalore District 5,347 cases and 4,746 deaths, Kolar District, including the Goldfields 2,303 cases and 1,823 deaths, Tumkur District 1,043 cases and 782 deaths, Hassan District two cases and one death, Kadir District six cases and five deaths, Chitaldrug District seven cases and four deaths, Shimoga District nil; total, 19,840 cases and 16,320 deaths. During the week under report indigenous cases throughout the province decreased by 20, though at several places, newly infected, in the city the decrease in the total mortality is the lowest on record for the past four months. Bangalore District shows an increase of indigenous cases from 57 to 61. Kolar, excluding the Goldfields shows a decrease from 43 to 18, and the Goldfields three cases and one death against six cases and five in the previous week. Coolie labour increased from 18,601 to 18,923. In Tumkur indigenous cases, decreased from 34 to 16, in Mysore district they decreased from 51 to 85, and in Mysore city decreased from 19 to 8. The system of working in the city plague camps is now different from what it used to be. Those who consent to take treatment by plague medical authorities are removed to the usual wards, but those who do not, are given the shed, in which they stay with their family as if in their own houses. Money is given them for maintenance, also for bedding and clothing if asked for. Their messages to the city are executed by the camp servants. They prefer the latter arrangement.

THE question of a new Court for Burma is still before the Home Government, but the despatch confirming the details of the Government of India's proposals for the constitution of a Chief Court at Rangoon may arrive any time.

THE gradual recovery from the previous deficiency in Indian railway earnings continues, the latest weekly returns showing an improvement of three lakhs, compared with the corresponding period last year. This is chiefly due to better receipts on the Rajputana-Malwa and Great Indian Peninsula systems.

A GANG of thieves broke open the roof of one of the Nowshera commissariat godowns but finding that there were only bags of grain and waterproofed buns stored there, they set fire to the contents. The fogs of stores is estimated at about Rs. 800. The same night two thieves were caught prowling around the barracks.

THE Government of India have agreed to contribute towards carrying out the recommendations of the Simla Extension Committee, subject to maximum of ten lakhs, and subject to the conditions (a) that the project be approved by the Government of India (b) that the Extension Committee's proposals regarding an increase of taxation be carried out; and (c) that the provincial revenues bear one-third of the amount contributed. It is understood that the Punjab Government accept these terms.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA AUGUST 24, 1899.

THE SEPARATION QUESTION.

OUR London correspondent says that Mr. Pickersill was to have moved in the House of Commons, "That the separation of judicial from executive duties in India is imperatively and urgently necessary in the interests of the administration of justice." The question was raised early in the sixties by such distinguished Judges of the High Court as Sir Barnes Peacock and Sir Richard Couch. In all probability, the reform, then advocated by many eminent members of the Civil Service, without any agitation or demand on behalf of the people themselves, would long ago have received the support of the Government of India, if a strong champion of the executive had not, in 1872, stepped in to oppose the measure as a part and parcel of that repressive and despotic policy with which his name will ever be associated in India. He was fascinated with the idea that personal rule and authority which is another name for despotism, was necessary to govern India; and as the power to punish was, in a barbarous state of society, the attribute of the sovereign, so District Magistrates, who were the executive rulers of districts, should, in his opinion, continue to possess judicial powers. Need we say who this high priest of despotic principles was? Sir James Stephen was at the time Legal Member of the India Government, the same Sir James was died a lunatic after having served as a Judge in England.

When Sir James expressed the above opinion, it came to be echoed by many executive officers in India, and still continues to prevail in influential quarters connected with the government of this country. To do Sir James Stephen justice, the views that he expressed were not new. They had been put forward so far back as 1856 by Sir F. J. Halliday, the then Lieutenant-Governor, who withdrew his own earlier and strongly-expressed opinion of 1838, but who was completely answered by his own successor, Sir John Peter Grant, a name still gratefully remembered in Bengal.

With full knowledge of Sir F. J. Halliday's views, the Police Commission of 1860 recommended: "That as a rule there should be complete severance of executive police from judicial authorities," and this recommendation itself had been suggested by the Government of India, who, in their instructions to the Commission, took care to point out that "above all, the golden rule should be borne in mind, that Police functions are not to be mixed up or confounded, and that the active work of preventing or detecting crime is to rest entirely with the Police, and not to be interfered with by those who are to sit in judgment on the criminal."

As a matter of temporary convenience, however, and having regard to the then existing official agency, an exception was recommended by the Commission in the case of the District Magistrate, called the District Officer. The question now is, whether the time has not arrived for discontinuing that exception, recommended and adopted as a temporary measure, 40 years ago. Even then Sir Bartle Frere in the Legislative Council expressed a hope that, as the exception was based upon "prejudices of long standing, at no distant date the principle adopted by the Police Commission would be fully and completely carried out."

The officials have tried to uphold the union of the two functions in the District Magistrate on various grounds. They have been thus summarized in the pamphlet of the late Mr. M. Ghose:—

A. It is alleged that the system works well.

B. That any change in the present system involves considerable additional expense.

C. That the District Magistrate cannot be deprived of his judicial powers without the loss of his prestige and influence over the people, and that such influence is necessary for the good government of the country.

D. That the District Magistrate "often acts as the connecting link between the Police and the Judiciary," and also "corrects the bias" which some Magistrates have "in favour of accused persons."

As regards the first of these heads, it can be said that if there are still any officials who think that the system works well, their opinion is opposed to that of the entire non-official community of all races in this country. There were, besides, eminent members of the Civil Service who, as stated above, were dead against the system. Then, if the system works well, how is it that hundreds of cases occur annually showing the flagrant abuse of the dual powers by Magistrates? The arrangement, namely, that the prosecutor and the judge should be the same man, is one which will be considered scandalous everywhere in the world.

With regard to reason B., a practical scheme has already been furnished by Mr. R. C. Dutt which disposes of the question of extra expenditure. Let all Magistrates of all classes who try cases be made subordinate to the appellate and revisional authority of only the District Judge, the District Magistrate continuing to be a Judge.

The head Executive Officer, the head Revenue Officer and the head Police Officer of his district.

He will collect revenue and taxes, and perform all the work connected with the revenue administration with the help of his assistants and deputies. He will continue to perform all executive work, and will be armed with the necessary powers. He will watch and direct police investigations, and will be virtually the prosecutor in criminal cases. But he will cease to try or to have tried by his subordinates, criminal cases in respect of which he is the police officer and the prosecutor.

On the other hand, the District Judge will, in addition to his present duties, supervise the work of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates employed on purely judicial work. This work of supervision will be better and more impartially done by trained judicial officers than by over-worked executive officers, who are also virtually prosecutors. And the evil which arises from the combination of functions of the prosecutor and the Judge, of which we have had some striking illustrations of late, will cease to exist when the prosecutor is no longer the Judge."—"Note by Mr. R. C. Dutt, of the Bengal Civil Service."

C. is, after all, the real objection, although it is generally to be found in confidential communications, and is not often openly put forward. In a debate in the House of Lords

on 8th May, 1893, the then Secretary of State for India, the Earl of Kimberley, contradicting Sir Richard Garth, remarked:—

I can in no way admit that the union of these two powers is maintained in India for the purpose of enhancing the prestige of the officers of the India Government.

This is, however, what Lord Ulrick Browne, late Commissioner of Division, remarked:—

In the event of so complete a change as that suggested, I think the District Officer's position and influence would be seriously affected.

The District Officer need seldom use his judicial powers, but the knowledge he could do so, if he chose, would be everything.

Sir Richard Garth, who, as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, knew the real fact better than Lord Kimberley, was thus perfectly right. It is not that the District Magistrate should use his judicial authority, for he has seldom time to do so, but he should be able to hold it, like the sword of Damocles, in order to create fear and extort respect from people, and now and then "large sums of money for public purposes," as Mr. Ghose has it in his pamphlet.

As regards D., the ground has never been publicly urged, though we have now and then seen it in confidential communications. As the ground has not been seriously put forward, it can be dismissed as one not worth any attention.

If the reform had been quietly introduced in 1860, or even twenty years later, it would have been welcomed by a considerable section of the executive branch of the Civil Service. But the press and the Congress took up the question with vigour, and this provoked official opposition. At the present day, although many judicial officials are in favour of the reform, there are scarcely half-a-dozen Executive Civil servants who are not opposed to it on vague and unassignable reasons of State policy, declaring that the present union is either "the mainstay" or "the keystone" of the British power in India, however disastrous it may be to the pure and efficient administration of justice. A strong Viceroy, who has the courage to disarm this opposition and carry out this reform, will not only be removing a serious blot from the administration of justice in India, but placing the real "mainstay" or "keystone" of British rule in India on a much firmer basis than is generally imagined by those who are reluctant to part with their own power. Lord Curzon is believed to be such a Viceroy, and the people, therefore, expects the introduction of the reform during his Viceroyalty.

WHEN the Calcutta Municipality was purely an official body in charge of Sir Stuart Hogg, great was the oppression. The rate-payers groaned under his autocratic rule,—not only the Indians but also the Europeans. The Europeans were so much disgusted that when the Indians prayed for the elective system, they joined the latter with alacrity. Nay, one of their organs, the *Indian Daily News*, attacked Sir Stuart so fiercely that that paper was prosecuted in the Criminal Court for libel, and the European jury acquitted its Editor. The power of the Chairman, Sir Stuart Hogg, was absolute, and he himself was unapproachable. When, therefore, the elective system was introduced and the people got their representatives to look after them, the houses of the latter every day presented a strange appearance. Hundreds of people flocked to the elected Commissioners for the redress of their grievances. The representatives had to listen to these grievances; and as they had been entrusted with power, they could also afford immediate relief to the aggrieved. The Municipal underlings realized the fact that the days of oppression were gone, and the number of the aggrieved lessened day by day. It is a positive fact that under the previous autocratic system the people groaned under oppression; but when the elective system was introduced, many of their grievances were removed.

THE Government now talks of the failure of duty on the part of the representatives. It is quite possible they failed in some respects, but there is no doubt they succeeded very well in the performance of their most important duty, *viz.*, they succeeded in affording protection to thousands of the aggrieved. Those who have a practical knowledge of the oppressions practised on the citizens in those days will testify to the fact that the present system proved an immense blessing to the rate-payers of Calcutta.

THE Government is going to revert to the old system. The oppressions are thus sure to commence again. Who will then afford protection to the aggrieved? As for the members of proposed Corporation it is very doubtful whether any respectable man will care to stand and get elected. Granting, however, that some will agree to serve as Commissioners, they are surely not likely to be besieged by the aggrieved, for they will have no power to afford protection. So the tens of thousands of Indian rate-payers will have only four Commissioners in the General Committee to protect them from oppression. We very much fear that the introduction of the new system will be followed by the groans of the poor. And then, will the money of the rate-payers be watched with the same care as it is watched now? We very much doubt it. Again, the odium of the Municipal administration of the town, if any, is now thrown upon the elected Commissioners. Under the proposed arrangement, it will be fastened wholly upon the Government.

SEEMING that America was day by day proving a formidable competitor even in industries in which England always considered herself invincible, Mr. Dixon travelled over the former country to find out the reason why. He puts forth his views in the *Cassier's Magazine* in these words:—

As the result of his investigations Mr. Dixon came to the conclusion that, "just as our own men, generally speaking, are bent on doing as little as possible in a given time, the American workman is bent on doing as much as possible." The most serious problem before England to-day, according to Mr. Dixon, is the lack of conscientiousness and integrity in British labour.

The real reason for this deterioration is that England has now very little heart in her industries. She is the object of envy to every Power in Europe, because of her vast foreign possessions; and most of her able men are now employed in frustrating the evil designs of these envious powers. England has thus to maintain a vast

army, tens of thousands of whom might have been employed in improving the industries at home. India is a property of England, and not a part and parcel of the Empire. The last brilliant victory of England in Africa has also secured to her another big Empire. It is extremely difficult to ascertain whether these territorial acquisitions are really profitable to England or not. They are denuding the mother country, as we said, of a large number of Englishmen for warlike purposes, whereas these ought to have devoted their time and energies to the improvement of the manufactures for which the English people have been so famous and in which they are being, one by one, beaten by America and several European countries. Secondly, these territorial acquisitions mean additional responsibilities and troubles upon the English nation. Every European nation covets India, because it is considered a valuable property of England—a jewel. If India had been incorporated with the British Empire, no nation would have ventured to cast a longing glance upon it. Thieves try to steal a piece of jewel from a man, and not the limb which carries it. India is a jewel and not a limb of the British Empire. Half of England's troubles with the European Powers would have disappeared, if India were treated as a Colony and not as a Zemindary. The Europeans in Calcutta are delighted at the destruction of local self-government in the city. This is short-sighted policy. The duty of the rulers here is, not to deprive the Indians of any little share in the administration which they have been permitted to enjoy, but to confer on them privileges more and more as the Empire grows older. By taking too much responsibility, the rulers will find themselves broken down completely.

WE find the following in our report of the Burdwan reference case already noticed in these columns:—

"The prisoner is a Brahmin, that's why the jury did not convict him of murder," remarked Mr. Justice Rampini after Mr. Rahim had read the letter of reference by the Sessions Judge of Burdwan, in the case of *Empress vs. Tribhukan Chakrabarti*.

This was like "sprinkling salt over a wound," as the Bengalee adage is. First of all, we humbly think that the heart of a Judge should be like a blank-sheet of paper. Secondly, the observation is based upon prejudice. The Brahmins are decaying fast and they deserve pity rather than otherwise. They were before what the white Brahmins are now. But what is the position of a Brahmin now? In number he is fast decaying, and he is, shewing decay all along the line. The fact is, two classes of Brahmins cannot flourish as two suns cannot shine, at one and the same time. One must give way to the other. To say that a Brahmin is not convicted because he is a Brahmin is absolutely a myth which has no foundation whatever in fact. We wonder where Mr. Justice Rampini got the fiction. At least, the Burdwan Sessions Judge does not say in his reference that the jury did not convict because the accused was a Brahmin.

THOUGH we are yet in the dark as to the immediate cause which led Lord George Hamilton to make a violent attack upon Sir William Wedderburn, we yet suspect that the following paragraph, published in *India*, which was received last week, had something to do with his loss of temper and his charging Sir William with circulating gross falsehoods:—

How can it be expected that the rank and file will treat the Indians well, when examples such as these are given by officers holding Her Majesty's Commission? Reform, if it is to be effective, must begin from the top. And indeed, if we look at the matter more closely, we must go still higher, and passing over the Anglo-Indian community, and the officers commanding the British troops in India, we must fix our attention on no less a personage than the Right Hon'ble Lord George Hamilton. When the Secretary of State for India is ready to hold up the administrators of our Indian Empire to the admiration of his constituents in a context about civilising savages, is it wonderful that our soldiers, who are men of ready action rather than those of delicate perception, treat the people of the country as being outside the amenities of civilized life? Why should they respect those whom Lord George Hamilton insults? Why should they trouble themselves to behave with decency to those whom the Secretary of State, in spite of all the restraints of his high position, does not blush to flout. The problem cannot be solved with reference to the soldiers alone. The reform, if it is to be effectual, must run through every rank of Anglo-Indians. All must recognise that a sympathetic and respectful attitude towards the people of India is a duty required alike by the honour of the nation and the interest of the State.

Even Lord George Hamilton must learn that the great office which he holds requires him to set a worthy example, and to leave talk about "savages" to the poets of the Empire.

We see nothing objectionable in the above. It is written in a fair spirit and polite language, and meant not to offend but to rouse a sense of duty. The fact is, Lord George cannot bear Sir William Wedderburn, and that is why his Lordship fell foul of him on the last occasion, as he had done on several previous occasions. Keuter telegraphs that Sir William was "demolished" by the Indian Secretary. We fear, however, that in spite of his "demolition," Sir William will continue to circulate what Lord George Hamilton euphemistically calls "gross falsehoods," and torment him as long as his Lordship is at the head of the India Office.

If it is true that the jury found the accused Love not guilty, and that the Chief Justice acquiescing in that verdict let him off, it is equally true, the result has given satisfaction to very few, if any. Even an Anglo-Indian paper, like the *Madras Mail*, thus writes about the trial:

Be all this as it may, however, we cannot but regret that another case has been added to the already long list of cases in which harm has come to native villagers from soldiers engaged in shooting for sport. Such cases, whatever the circumstances may be, create a very bad impression, apart from the actual injury and loss of life that ensue, and they add immensely to the difficulties of a good understanding and good feeling between the rulers and the ruled in this country.

A Madras correspondent has sent us some "puzzles" in connection with this case, and asks Mr. Norton, as counsel for the defence, to solve them:

(1) Mr. Norton argued that, if the story of rape fell, the whole story of the defence ought to fall. The argument is not quite intelligible to laymen. Suppose, there was no rape nor was any violence used, but the accused only sought to take undue liberties with the girl. Next suppose,

the deceased youth objected to this, and a scuffle ensued up between the latter and the accused resulting in the youth being shot at. Cannot the above story be quite possible, nay, quite natural?

(2) If the story of the prosecution is to be taken as a tissue of falsehood from the beginning to the end, then we are bound to believe a story somewhat to the following effect. A number of illiterate villagers took it into their heads to put a European soldier, who was a stranger to them and who had done them no harm, into serious trouble. For this purpose they took a girl, an illiterate pariah, not yet married, into their confidence,—one, who would not only not tell lies but would proclaim her disgrace and shame before the world to get the soldier hanged. And she was ready to do all this, though she had no motive for it.

(3) Love was charged with committing murder or culpable homicide amounting to murder. He was committed to the sessions on those counts. But the jury did not believe in the rape story, and thereupon they at once came to the conclusion that Love had not committed any of the crimes with which he was charged!

ONE cannot conceive of a more black and dastardly crime than that of which Mary Ansell was lately found guilty by an English Jury and Judge. She had insured her sister's life for £22-10s, and the motive of the crime, the murder of that sister, was to possess herself of the insurance money. In short, she had poisoned her own sister, by sending her poisoned cakes through the post, (who, by the bye, was in an asylum owing to the weak state of her health) for the sake of the paltry amount. The act was deliberate and carefully planned, so in truth, the criminal woman had nothing to recommend her to public sympathy. Still the English society was powerfully moved in her favour, and all that was possible was done to get a reprieve for her. A large and influential movement was set on foot for the purpose, in which many members of Parliament joined; and a largely signed petition was sent to the Home Secretary. "The plea on which the exercise of the prerogative of mercy was demanded, that of insanity, was, however, upon a careful inquiry by medical men, found to be untenable, and thus the Home Secretary did not find his way to comply with the prayer, and the prisoner was executed. The case of Ansell shows that "sympathy for crime," for which, according to many officials, the Indians are notorious is not the exclusive property of the latter. It appears, Englishmen at home beat them hollow in this respect. No Indian would have moved on behalf of a monster like Ansell who could kill her poor sister in this diabolical way. But yet members of Parliament and many other respectable Englishmen were found to pray for her reprieve.

THE execution of Mary Ansell has once more brought the question of capital punishment to the front. The following from the London *Daily News* represents the enlightened public sentiments on the point:—

Whether capital punishment should be abolished altogether is another question. We are inclined to think that it does more harm than good. As to the harm there can be no doubt whatever. It stimulates a morbid interest in the vilest culprits and the most detestable offences. Questions were asked in the House of Commons about Mary Ansell, and a hundred members of Parliament signed a petition for her reprieve, although no human being could doubt that she murdered her own sister in a particularly cruel way. If she had been sentenced to penal servitude for life, not another word would have been said about her. Civilised society shrinks from the deliberate destruction of life, and the scaffold surrounds with a sort of false martyrdom some of the worst wretches that ever lived. It is said that as there is nothing to which people cling so much as life, there can be nothing so deterrent as the fear of death. It certainly did not deter Mary Ansell, although the temptation to which she succumbed was almost ludicrously small. The man who murdered the Empress of Austria expressed a disappointment which may well have been genuine when he heard that there was no capital penalty in the Canton of Geneva. Perpetual imprisonment, with no hope of release, is a doom more terrible to most minds than even an ignominious death. The capital penalty is inflicted far more often in England than in any other country, and murders are unhappily not less common here than elsewhere.

The punishment by hanging is a relic of barbarity which ought to be abolished from every civilized country in the world. The *Daily News* talks of the frequency of this punishment in England. That is because he has no notion as to the light-hearted manner in which people are hanged in this country. In England one-third of the capital-sentenced prisoners are reprieved; in India, reprieve is almost unknown. Then, again, in England a prisoner is never sentenced capitally, unless he or she is found guilty of murder by his or her own peers; in India, alien Judges try prisoners without the help of a Jury and yet pass capital sentences upon them though they are ignorant of, or at best imperfectly acquainted with, the language, manners and customs of the country.

His HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has stated more than once that, under the proposed Municipal Bill, Calcutta will secure better self-government than it enjoys now. The Mackenzie scheme, says His Honor, does not mean any interference with the elective system—it is only an improvement upon the old method. Nay, at the meeting of the Council held on August 8, His Honor went to the length of hinting that those who were opposing the present Bill were enemies to real local self-government. We do not know what His Honor's idea of self-government is. What the general public understand by self-government is "governing by self." It has nothing to do with the question of election or selection. An election may be so provided as to destroy self-government altogether. As for instance, the Indian rate-payers may be given the right of electing their representatives with the proviso that they must all be white men. In the above scheme, though the principle of election is granted, yet it deprives the citizens of all real control. In the same manner, nomination may be made in such a manner that it may secure the privilege of self-government to the people. So, what is wanted is not this or that system, but control over Municipal affairs. The elective system is only a means to an end. Any system that secures this control is the right thing, and that which takes it away is the reverse of it. Does Sir John Woodburn mean to say that the Mackenzie system will secure the control in a greater degree than what the people of Calcutta have been

them to produce witnesses on their behalf. Then he began to draw up the charges. After a while he suddenly tore off the sheets of paper on which he was writing and dismissed the case, at the same time releasing the accused. He did not stop there. He ordered the complainant and her witnesses to show cause why they should not be charged with perjury.

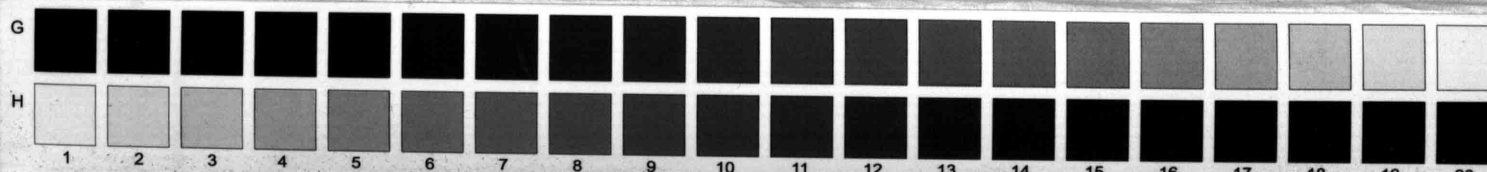
THE Select Committee presented their final report on the Municipal Bill at the meeting of the Local Council held on Monday, that is to say, they embodied the suggestions of the India Government in the Bill, and then recommended that the measure, as now amended by them, be passed. It was signed by four official, one nominated Mahomedan, and two non-official European, members, the dissentients being the two representative members, the Hon'ble Mr. Apar and the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, who have signed it subject to their Notes of Dissent. Now, one of the recommendations of the Government of India was that the number of elected Commissioners should be reduced from fifty to twenty-five. The official members, including the Lieutenant-Governor, had, however, previously suggested the retention of the present number, fifty. Indeed, His Honor had gone so far as to say that the citizens of Calcutta would have had a real cause of grievance if Sir Alexander Mackenzie had interfered in any way with the election of these fifty Ward Commissioners. But the same official members who had insisted on retaining the fifty elected members, had no difficulty in forgetting what they had recommended before, and in recommending quite a different thing, namely, that what Calcutta needed was not fifty but twenty-five elected Commissioners! It is Indian officials only who can perform such a wonderful feat, and it is in this enlightened way that legislation is carried on in this country. They sit together and decide one day that the sun rises from the east. On the next day, a mandate comes from above, and they again sit together, gravely discuss the matter, and then arrive at the conclusion that the sun rises from the west and not from the east! One of the signatories to the Report is Prince Mahomed Bakhtiyar Shah. And this gentleman presided at the Bhovanipur meeting held to thank Babu Norendra Nath Sen for his services in connection with the Municipal Bill. When he presided at the meeting, he, of course, lauded up Babu Norendra Nath to the skies for having espoused the popular cause; but, when in the Select Committee, he voted with the Government which had introduced the obnoxious measure! When laws are manufactured here by such men, in such a fashion, we do not see why so much time is wasted in our Legislative Councils in the discussion of a Bill.

THE Lieutenant-Governor had intended to pass the measure on the 2nd of September. Two elected members, one of them being Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, however, implored His Honor to postpone the meeting to the 9th of September. Now, does it matter in the least, whether the Bill is finally amended, is passed to-morrow or a fortnight hence? Indeed, we are at a loss to understand why the two members made such a pathetic appeal at all when they knew very well that it would only give the Government an opportunity of declaring that it had made a concession to the people, as it did when disfranchising the Dacca Division, and taking credit for its so-called generosity. Knowing that they could do nothing and that all their amendments would be lost, the best course for the two members was to say that, as they were in a hopeless minority and as the Government was all powerful, they would not trouble it with any request of theirs and not ask for a few days' time more with folded hands for the purpose of preparing some fine speeches.

To the question of the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, asking for the Government letter containing the charges of corruption against the Commissioners, the answer was that it could not be published as it was a confidential document. But, if it were a confidential one, why were the charges brought against the Commissioners? If the elected Commissioners had brought similar charges against the Government and failed to produce evidence to substantiate them, would they not have all been hanged? If a private person had impugned the character of the Commissioners in this manner, they might have proceeded against him legally; but, they are utterly helpless when the Government is concerned. Such being the case, the Government should never have sought to stab them in the dark in this irresponsible fashion. Justice and fairness require that either the charges should be proved satisfactorily or withdrawn formally.

As the Government cannot prove them, we hope, it will have the goodness to withdraw them. We do not see how the Commissioners can stick to their posts even for a single day, after such a reply from the Government.

His HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has stated more than once that, under the proposed Municipal Bill, Calcutta will secure better self-government than it enjoys now. The Mackenzie scheme, says His Honor, does not mean any interference with the elective system—it is only an improvement upon the old method. Nay, at the meeting of the Council held on August 8, His Honor went to the length of hinting that those who were opposing the present Bill were enemies to real local self-government. We do not know what His Honor's idea of self-government is. What the general public understand by self-government is "governing by self." It has nothing to do with the question of election or selection. An election may be so provided as to destroy self-government altogether. As for instance, the Indian rate-payers may be given the right of electing their representatives with the proviso that they must all be white men. In the above scheme, though the principle of election is granted, yet it deprives the citizens of all real control. In the same manner, nomination may be made in such a manner that it may secure the privilege of self-government to the people. So, what is wanted is not this or that system, but control over Municipal affairs. The elective system is only a means to an end. Any system that secures this control is the right thing, and that which takes it away is the reverse of it. Does Sir John Woodburn mean to say that the Mackenzie system will secure the control in a greater degree than what the people of Calcutta have been



enjoying since the introduction of the Temple measure? His Honor, no doubt, entertains this view, otherwise he would not have called it an improvement upon the present system; but the Indians and one half of England, that is to say, the Liberals, hold quite a different notion.

LET us now see what sort of a self-governing body we are going to have under the Bill, which, to all intents and purposes, is passed. Sir A. Mackenzie was an autocrat of autocrats. So he provided that the Calcutta Municipality should be governed as he, as Lieutenant-Governor, governed the province of Bengal. He was the Chief with an Executive Council to help, and a representative Council to advise, him. So he would have the Municipality put under a Chief, with an Executive Council to help, and a representative Council to advise, him. Though an autocrat, Sir A. Mackenzie was also a Liberal. So he would not meddle with the elective system. He would allow the rate-payers to elect their fifty representatives as now; but he would not permit these representatives to meddle with the work of the Chief and his General Committee, as he himself did not permit the representative members of his Council to interfere with his own work. The elected Commissioners, like the representative members of his Council, would, however, be allowed to make long speeches on the budget and large projects laid before them. So, by this scheme, Sir Alexander Mackenzie sought to satisfy all parties. He would allow the citizens to elect their representatives as now, and thus please the Indians. But he would not permit the elected Commissioners to interfere with the work of the Chief and his General Committee of 12; and by this arrangement he would please the European community. In short, the Calcutta Corporation has, under the proposed law, been converted into another miniature Legislative Council of the Local Government. The Legislative Council of the Bengal Government consists of 20 members, of whom only six are elected; and the General Committee of the Corporation consists of 12 members, of whom only four are elected. This is the sort of self-government which the Government is going to confer on the citizens of Calcutta, and which is said to be a better commodity than what we possess now. The Calcutta Municipality, in short, will henceforth be as much a self-governing body as the Legislative Council of the Bengal Government, where the fourteen official members are always ready to pounce upon and swamp the elected six, when the Government is determined to pass a measure!

SIR JOHN WOODBURN appealed to the people of Calcutta not to make any further agitation against the Bill. We would not object to accepting His Honor's advice provided two things were done beforehand. One is that the limit of taxation should be fixed by law, according to the capacity of the rate-payers; and, secondly, the Indians should be relieved of the burden of paying for the luxuries and comforts of the Europeans and imperial purposes. If the Indians were thus relieved of paying for matters in which they have no concern, they would not mind in the least to make over the entire control of the Municipality to the Chairman and his 12 men. Let Sir John Woodburn prepare a statement to see how the poor Indians have been fleeced to keep the rich Europeans in comfort. Let the Government remove this wrong, and it will receive no opposition from the Indians to its "reform."

WE take the following from the *Pioneer*:—"One often hears and even reads marvellous travellers' stories of the seemingly supernatural powers of the Indian conjuror; but most of them stand examination badly, and as a rule those who have resided any time in the country are unanimously agreed that the Indian artist compares very poorly with the wizards of the West. However in a book just published under the name of *Enchanted India*, we find the subject brought up again in rather a prominent way. The author, Prince Karagorvitch, a scion of the house of Serbia, is well-known as a man of letters, and, though a Prince, is a person of more than ordinary shrewdness and observation. He met his magician in the railway train at Bhowmugger, when he was on a tour in India, a couple of years ago, and the following is his account of the adventure:—"At a station where we stopped, a man with a broad jolly smiling face got into the carriage. He was a juggler and a magician, could do whatever he would, and at the time when the line was opened, he threatened that if he were not allowed to travel free he would break the trains into splinters. The officials had a panic and the authorities were so nervous that they gave way; so he is always travelling from one station to another, living in the carriages. He came into ours as if he was at home, and amused himself by worrying me. At first he made believe to throw my rings out of the window, substituting others. I know not how, which I saw fall on the line and roll into the grass on the bank. My watch got into his hands and vanished. I found it in my friend T's pocket, and afterwards in a basket of provender, closed at Bhowmugger, and which I opened with my own hands. The man was dressed in blue and silver, his belt studded with four-anna pieces; hanging to his girdle was a whole array of small knives, sheaths and boxes. With his sleeves turned up to the elbows he fairly amazed me, conjuring away into the air eight rupees that filled his hands and finding them again one by one in our pockets, bags and plaids."

A native paper, we are told, started a correspondence about the juggler in its columns some time ago, and numbers of marvellous anecdotes were forthcoming about his feats. It was said that many Europeans who had seen him had been wonder-struck, but Prince Karagorvitch is apparently the first who has recorded his impressions in print.

There is no doubt of it that the art of magic had at one time reached almost to a state of perfection in India and been an object of wonder to people outside the country, but it is now on its wane. Even thirty or forty years before such performances as producing a mango tree on a pot or making one's self invisible in broad daylight were to be met with here and there, but they can scarcely be seen now either for love or money. Jehangir in his auto-biography gives

some instances, of the performances shown to him at Lahore. They looked like miracles as they do now. In one case, the jugglers put a number of pots filled with earth, and produced any kind of tree to order—roots, stem, leaf and all. Fresh apples, mangoes and other fruits were also produced. The performance was shown, in broad daylight. In another place Jehangir speaks of one of the performers having drawn out "a resplendent mirror, by the radiance of which a light so powerful was produced as to have illuminated the hemisphere to an incredible distance round." Next is given the instance when they produced a man whom they divided, limb from limb, actually severing his head from the body. The various limbs were then scattered and a cloth placed over them, when, lo and behold! the man comes whole and sound from underneath the cloth. We hope to publish the 28 performances in detail, which were witnessed not only by him but by his whole court.

MARY ANSELL'S crime—the ugliest on record—was one of premeditated murder. Her motive was base and the means she had recourse to was diabolical. She was found out, tried, found guilty, convicted and had to pay the extreme penalty. But even Mary Ansell did not fail to excite sympathy. A movement was set on foot, and, indeed, a very influential representation was made to the Home Secretary on her behalf. If a case like this could move men to intercede on behalf of the accused, how much more should the case of Venkataswami, which has been recently disposed of by the Madras High Court, be an object of intercession? Venkataswami, a resident of North Arcot District, was convicted of the murder of his two children, by the Sessions Judge and sentenced to transportation for life. It would appear that the prisoner's wife and a daughter died sometime ago of cholera. The prisoner was left behind to look after his two young children. For sometime the prisoner spent his time in begging at Tirupati and thus maintained his children. The idea was abhorrent and life itself was a burden to him. He wished to commit suicide but the thought of his young children, who would be left helpless behind him, prevented him from putting an end to his life. For a time he struggled for existence with the two young children hanging over him for support, till at last he determined to kill his young ones first and himself next. With this intention, he engaged a house and in the night coolly killed his two young ones with a knife. Before, however, he could try and put an end to his own existence he was arrested and taken charge of by the police. On his own confession the prisoner was convicted of murder. The prisoner appealed against his sentence. Justice O'Farrell and Michell of the Madras High Court in disposing of the appeal, remarked that the prisoner had been rightly convicted. Considering, however, the peculiar circumstances under which the murders had been committed, their Lordships passed orders that it was a fit case for submission to H. E. the Governor in Council for such orders as he might deem fit to pass in the matter. The unfortunate man bears no enmity to society, and society entertains no other feeling for him than that of supreme pity. Why should he then be hanged? At a moment of temporary insanity—for no one can kill his own children unless he has lost his senses—he committed a foul deed. He himself was ready to die with his victims, but he was not permitted to do so. Meanwhile, he regained his sanity, and the instinct of self-preservation led him to fear death which he had defied before, and sue for life. We dare say, His Excellency the Governor of Madras will pardon the prisoner and allow him to live and repent.

THE Sialkot shooting case has come to an end; and the result is, as might have been well anticipated, that the accused (there was one soldier and not two as reported before) has been let off. The plea of accident was advanced by the defence and it was accepted by the District Magistrate who tried the case. It will be remembered that Gunner Dance went out shooting and fired at a bird sitting close to a woman. The pellets hit the woman in the face and several were found embedded in the facial muscles and bones by the medical officer who dressed her wound. The poor woman has since died. Yes, it was an accident, but it is India in the whole world, which presents such accidents. Fancy, the woman was shot down in broad daylight! Is such an occurrence possible in England?

THE cold weather session of the Legislative Council is likely to be a heavy one, several big measures being in preparation for it. Amongst those which will probably be passed, the most important is the Assam Inland Emigration Bill, now before the Secretary of State, which affects the whole question of the tea-garden labour supply. The Indian Shipping Bill, which is again before the Council, is also a large one, while the Transfer of Property Bill involves a number of knotty points. The other measures likely to be passed are the Indian Companies Registration Bill and the Rangoon Courts Bill, both important of their kind.

THE native piece-goods merchants and the Grain Merchants Associations have submitted to the Government of India a telegraphic representation on the Press Messages Bill. They point out that prohibition to comment on press telegraphic news will have a prejudicial effect on trade interests, having regard to the fact that comments, in the leading and well-informed vernacular papers on trade matters are greatly appreciated. It is well-known that the trade in wheat, rice, cotton, piece-goods and other commodities passes in the first instance principally through native hands. Well-reasoned and prompt comments in the vernacular press immediately following telegraphic news, have wholesome and salutary influence on the trade. That check will be lost by the proposed measure. They beg that the Council will rather postpone the final consideration of the Bill till the Calcutta Session, or omit from the Bill the clause which prohibits comment on news for six hours. The recommendation of various public bodies on the Foreign Press Messages Copyright Bill are reaching the Government of India. Meanwhile the Select Committee's report thereon will not, it is said, be ready for submission at next Friday's Council meeting, and the matter, therefore, will have to be held over until the first meeting of the Council in September.

THE following is from the *Mandaly Herald*:—"Maulmain is very unfortunate. Its learned judge, if not singular, shows symptoms of what is termed a 'Burma head.' The Judge of Maulmain is reported by the local paper to have said in Court on the 8th instant:—"Before commencing the business of the day I think it necessary to state that I notice two of the advocates are appearing before me with their heads covered and I should like to know whether they have also shoes on." The advocates to whom this allusion applied, were a Burman and a Mahomedan. There seems to have been a tough harangue over this and Mr. Law, the leading Barrister there, on behalf of these advocates made some suggestions to the judge. Mr. Law referred him to the Special Court which permitted native advocates to appear in the costume apparently objected to by Mr. Wilson, the Maulmain judge. Burmese gentlemen, wearing both shoes and gongbouns are received by the Viceroy and the Lt-Governor. The learned judge concluded by giving the advocates time to produce authority for the alleged disrespectful character of dress. According to a Government Notification of 1868, the Governor-General in Council rules that all natives of India wearing boots or shoes of European fashion may appear thus habited before all servants of Government." It may not be generally known that the Notification above referred to was brought into requisition very recently. On Lord Curzon's arrival in Calcutta, two distinguished members of a public body that waited upon his Lordship with an address of welcome, were dressed in the "Moghul" style and they were precluded from admission into the viceregal presence because their shoes were of "European fashion."

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

LONDON, AUG. 5.

THERE is little or nothing of Indian interest to write about this week. In Parliament a tired and scanty House worries through the remaining Estimates, and passes through their final stages various Bills of a non-contentious character. The Indian Budget will come on next week, probably on Thursday. In the ballot which has taken place with regard to notices of motion, the resolution standing in the name of Sir William Wedderburn has fallen to Mr. William Jones, a fiery and eloquent Welsh member. It will, of course, be seconded by Sir William, and no doubt a division will follow. It is unaltered from the form in which it appeared in one of my recent letters, and demands that the salary of the Secretary of State shall be borne on the British Estimates; an earlier day in the session for the Indian Budget; and a Select Committee for the East India accounts.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

Mr. Pickersgill will also move the following resolution:—"That the separation of judicial from executive duties in India is imperatively and urgently necessary in the interests of the administration of justice."

If a division is taken on the first resolution one cannot, by the rules of the House, be taken on Mr. Pickersgill's. But there will, of course, be a debate in which Lord George Hamilton will no doubt make clear to the House what attitude should be taken towards this most important reform. The recent memorial presented to him by a number of eminent retired Indian Judges ought and no doubt will, have a very great weight with him. I hope this very legitimate and long-standing demand of the Congress is now within measurable distance of realization. Lord George Hamilton has circulated, as usual, his usual explanatory memorandum on the Budget, by which Secretaries of State for India have in recent years saved themselves and the House from the long and weary disquisitions which used to be the vogue, and which, more than any other contributory cause, thinned the attendance of members. I remember well the introduction of an Indian Budget by the present Duke of Devonshire, then Lord Hartington, in the longest and very dulllest speech I ever heard in Parliament. No doubt it had, as usual, been prepared for him, by the permanent officials, and he found it so sepulchrally dull himself that he stopped every few minutes to give way to a loud and cavernous yawn terribly shocking his chief, Mr. Gladstone, ever a great stickler for Parliamentary propriety. When at the end of two long and dreary hours his Lordship resumed his seat. Mr. Gladstone said in a pained voice—"Are you aware that you yawned audibly sixteen times during your speech?" Turning a lacklustre eye upon the Grand Old man, he replied with another prolonged and resounding yawn, and the terse remark—"Ya-a-a-as, wasn't it dull?" But now we get it in print, and yawn in private. The first paragraph gives all that is of interest to the general reader showing surplus or deficit. A deficit of some 5,366,000 Rs. in the account of 1897-8 is happily converted into a surplus of 4,060,000 Rs. for 1898-9, and an estimated surplus for 1899-1900 of Rs. 3,933,000. I hope this prosperity will not be interfered with by the threatened failure of the monsoon which is making us all very unhappy.

THE Government of India have sanctioned grants aggregating Rs. 13,200 for the Hissar Cattle Farm, to include the establishment of the dairy at Hissar.

THE Punjab Government have sanctioned the grant of compassionate pensions to the families of the nine policemen who died of plague while employed on duty connected with the suppression of the disease in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts.

MR. MICHAEL MACAULIFFE, lately Divisional Judge in the Punjab, has finished his translation of the Granth Sahib, the sacred book of the Sikhs. A Committee of native scholars has approved of the translation, and it is hoped that some English publisher will shortly issue the book.

INTIMATION has been received that the Secretary of State for India has decided to exercise the power of purchasing the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company's undertaking next year, and formal notice to that effect has been served on the Company both in London and in Bombay.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

EXODUS NEWS.—The Foreign Department have not yet fixed their dates of removal to Calcutta. Mr. J. B. Brunyate, Under-Secretary, Finance Department, will arrive at Calcutta on the 30th October.

FOREIGN TRADE OF CALCUTTA.—The total foreign trade of Calcutta for the past month was valued at 641 lakhs. Imports increased by nearly thirty-six lakhs, and exports fell by nearly twenty lakhs.

THE SOUTH BEHAR RAILWAY.—THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,12,94,000, for the construction of the South Behar Railway, 78.83 miles in length, the line now being completed and opened for traffic.

THE "RESOLUTE" DISASTER.—A Marine Court of Inquiry into the circumstances touching the collision between the steamer *Scindia* and the river survey steamer *Resolute*, resulting in the foundering of the latter vessel, has been fixed for Wednesday. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. T. A. Pearson, will be President of the Court, which will sit at the Port Office.

A WHITE CROW.—A Jaffna correspondent writes:—"A white young crow is kept and exhibited at a house opposite to the office of Messrs Durai & Co. Many people go and see it. Its beak is of a reddish colour and the whole body is white except some brown spots in the lower part of its wings. When it was first caught, it is said, that the parent crow was seen to feel it. Such a freak of nature, we think, never happened before."

PRESENTATION TO A TEACHER.—The students of the Howra Zilla School wanted to present the third teacher with a gold ring as a token of their love and respect for him. They, therefore, sought the permission of the Headmaster for the use of the school premises, but as this was unaccountably refused they applied to the District Magistrate who gave them the use of the Town Hall. The presentation ceremony took place on Sunday last at the Howra Town Hall when and where more than 200 persons were present. (Communicated.)

ABKARI IN ASSAM.—The excise revenue of Assam increases directly with the growth of the immigrant population. From the last report by Mr. Davis, on the Excise Administration of Assam, it appears that an increase in business, due to the increase in foreign population, and consequent keen competition among *abkars*, were the causes of the increase in revenue from Rs. 5,27,520 in 1897-98 to Rs. 6,28,420 in 1898-99 showing an increase of Rs. 1,00,900, or 19.10 per cent. The revenue of the past year is the highest ever obtained in Assam. The settlements for the current year (1898-99) amounting to Rs. 6,46,110 show a further increase of Rs. 17,690. During the past year all districts, except Goalpara, Darrang, and the Khasi Hills, in which there was a decrease, contributed towards the increase.

POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.—In accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State for India, the Governor-General has approved of the institution of a Provident Fund for Officers of the Police Department throughout India of or above the rank of Assistant District Superintendent of Police. Subscriptions to the Fund are not obligatory in the case of officers already in service, except when an officer, being married, or subsequently marrying, fails to make adequate provision for his family in some other way. Subscription to the Fund are obligatory, on all officers joining the service after the date of this resolution, the first subscription to be made on salaries becoming due on the 1st October. The rules are published in the *Gazette of India*. Subscriptions will be not less than 5 per cent. or more than 6 per cent. of salary. Compound interest at the rate of 4 per cent, will be granted by Government.

EXPORT TRADE OF CALCUTTA.—For the month of July a decrease was recorded in the value of exports by sea from Calcutta to foreign countries. Including treasure, the total value of exports was 365 lakhs, or a decline of over five per cent. In merchandise the value contracted by nearly 29 lakhs; there were no exports of gold, but silver rose by seven lakhs in value owing to larger shipments of rupees to Ceylon. Of rice there was a decrease of 1,40,852 cwt, and of wheat of 98,043 cwt. In the past month the bulk of the rice went to Bombay. Under oil seeds the great falling off was, of course, in linseed, but the trade in poppy and rapeseed was also less. Jute shipments being less by nearly nine lakhs; coal and raw cotton were also shipped to a smaller extent. In spite of a crisis in the tea trade and suspended shipments to London for some time, the total export was over seventeen million pounds, representing an increased value of nearly nineteen lakhs. Exports of raw jute were greater by 74,118 cwt, while increase were at the same time recorded under hides, skins, lac and opium.

INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed: Kaushikram Vignaharam Mehta, B.A., of the English Educational Department, Baroda, a labyrinth lock and key; Thomas Henry Patching, tailor, of Strathfield, New South Wales, an automatic coupling for use on railway carriages and the like; Messrs. Earnsthausen, Limited, merchants, Calcutta, for improvements in indigo manufacture; Jacob Brown and Arthur Brown, special apparatus manufacturers, both of 2, Downing Street, Manchester, Lancashire, improvements in and relating to saucapans for heating and boiling milk and other liquids; Binns Kershaw, manufacturer, of 62, Livesey Street, Manchester, Lancashire, improvements in and connected with, covers or slips for bed-bolsters, bed-pillows, cushions, and the like; Franz Walther Wartenberger, tanner, of 46, Esplanade, Hamburg, improved process of tanning; Paul Lacroix, Directeur de la Cie Universelle d'Acetylene, of 36, Rue de Chateaudun, Paris, improvements in acetylene gas generators; Robert Henry Cave, indigo planter, of Doomur Hat Post Office, Katihar, E. B. S. Railway, Bengal, an improved process of indigo manufacture to be called the "Improved silicate process of indigo manufacture;" and Captain M. T. Cox, general ships' contractor, of 3, New China Bazar Street, Calcutta, an improved tub of iron, or other material, for the rapid discharge of salt-ex ships and steamers and for an improved shoot to work in connection with the same.

CURRENCY NOTES.—The total amount of currency notes in circulation in India on 15th August was Rs. 29,39,44,265, against a total reserve in gold and silver of Rs. 19,39,44,319. The gold reserve amounted to Rs. 3,83,50,786.

SEA-BORNE TRADE.—For the first four months of 1899-1900 Calcutta trade by sea totalled in value nearly twenty-five crores, or an increase of 184 lakhs. To this increase both imports and exports participated, the former preponderating.

DURBHANGA MEMORIAL FUND.—Raja Shib Chander Banerji of Bhagalpur has subscribed Rs. 1,000 to the Maharaja of Durbhanga Memorial Fund. Subscriptions have also been received from Babu Nuffer Chander Paul Chowdhury (of Nadia), Babu Rama Nath Ghose, and Rai Buddree Dass Bahadur, Mukim to His Excellency the Viceroy. Archbishop Goethals has subscribed Rs. 100.

AN INDIAN TRADE DIRECTORY.—Sir Frederick Abel, Honorary Secretary and Director of the Imperial Institute, has communicated with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with a view to having the names and addresses of the firms engaged in the various Indian trades and industries included in a directory which is apparently in course of being compiled under the auspices of the Institute.

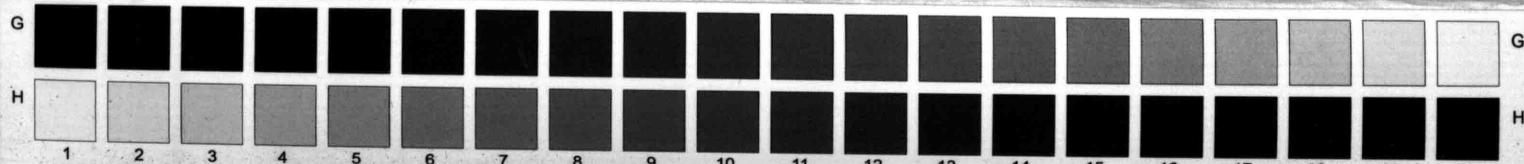
A GRACEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The following reply from Mr. R. P. Paranjpye has been received by the Hon. Mr. Justice Gooroo Dass Banerji, Chairman of the Paranjpye Congratulation Meeting, Calcutta:—"I have to acknowledge with great pleasure the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant together with enclosure. I feel it a very great favour to be congratulated in this manner by the graduates and under-graduates of the Calcutta University on my small success. Moreover, Calcutta has had the honour of opening up to the eyes of India the examination for success in which I am now the happy recipient of your congratulations. Kindly convey to all my hearty thanks for their congratulations and good wishes for my future and accept them yourself."

POSTAL FRAUD.—On Monday Inspector Gos of the Watgunj Thanna prosecuted one Karim Bux, a peon attached to the Kidderpore Post office, before Moulvi Seraj-ul Huj, Police Magistrate of Alipore, on charges of cheating, forgery and criminal breach of trust. It appeared that the accused was entrusted with a postal money order for Rs. 25 for delivery, but instead of doing that he forged the payee's name on the receipt and returned the same to the Postmaster after misappropriating the amount. The payee being suspicious of some foul play at the unusual delay in receiving the money brought the fact to the notice of the postal authorities who on enquiry found out the fraud. Accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 25, in default to undergo six months' further imprisonment.

RIOTOUS SEPOYS.—On Saturday last, Captain Barton, Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, disposed of a case in which three sepoys attached to the 8th Madras Infantry stationed at Barrackpore, along with four local Mahomedans, were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting and causing grievous hurt to a rival party. It appears that during the last Mohurrum festival two rival parties, one headed by military men and the other by local Mahomedans met near the Sudder Bazar and a fight ensued between them in course of which some men of both parties were more or less wounded. Seven men were arrested on the spot and sent up for trial. The Magistrate acquitted one of the sepoys and convicted the others, sentencing five of them to one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 each and one to seven months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 50. On Monday an appeal on behalf of the convicted sepoys was filed before Mr. Pargiter, the officiating District and Sessions Judge of Alipore, who admitted the appeal and ordered him to be released on bail.

THE GREAT INDIAN CIRCUS CO.—A correspondent writes from Bally:—"The above company which has been here for the last few weeks, gave an interesting performance before a large and appreciative gathering on Saturday last. Amongst the feats which require particular mention are:—Triple Horizontal Bar, and Cannon Balls Act were excellently performed by Mr. Bany Madhab Ghosh, M. S. 1., assisted by a good clown Ala-glob; Rouland by Miss Fulkumary. The Big Stone Act by Amateur Bysack; the Double Trapeze Act by two little children; the Japanese ladder by a number of amateur performers, together with various exciting acts performed by trained horses, monkeys and dogs; and the wringing of paper butterflies and other dexterous feats performed by Mr. Bany Madhab Ghosh, M. S. 1. The audience were oftentimes kept laughing by the introduction of the clown and other humorous scenes, such as carriage drawn by a dog and driven by monkeys; monkeys on horse back etc. The amusement of the day came to a close with the wonderful play of Professor N. Bysack with a season act, at the conclusion of which the player was loudly cheered."

A PARALLEL.—*Apophros* of the abrupt ending of the trial of Gunner Love, in the High Court, the other day, it is interesting to recall, says the *Hindu*, how a Chief Justice of Calcutta acted, in the early days of the century, under somewhat similar circumstance. Then, as now, the Jury had it all their way, in Sessions cases, in Presidency towns, when they happened to be unanimous. Then, too, as now, a European Jury almost invariably brought in the verdict of "not guilty," against a European accused. But Judges seem to have breathed in a freer atmosphere in those days. At any rate we have it recorded that one of them thought it necessary, in the discharge of his judicial functions, to give a bit of his own mind to the prisoner while discharging him in accordance with the verdict of the Jury. The following passage occurs in the first volume of a book called *The Good Old Days of Hon'ble John Company*, on page 221:—"On the 10th June 1812, Macdonald, the mate of a vessel (*The Hunter*) was tried in the Calcutta Supreme Court for causing the death of one of his crew, by tying him up during the whole of a cold night on a voyage to Botany Bay. Though the evidence was very clear, the Jury returned a verdict of 'not guilty' on which the Chief Justice justly remarked:—"The gentlemen of the Jury must certainly have discovered some reason for doubting the testimony of the witnesses, which did not occur to the Court, and you therefore have escaped the punishment of manslaughter, which the Court have not the smallest doubt but you deserve. I hope your escape will be a lesson for your future conduct, and that you will be advised to return to that humane and mild disposition which was your character six years ago. You may not probably meet with another jury who will deal so mercifully with you."



VICEREGAL MOVEMENTS.—H. E. the Viceroy leaves Simla on the 23rd October. The departure will be private. He arrives at Calcutta on the 15th December. The arrival will be public.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S A.D.C.—Lieutenant N. D. Horsford, Norfolk Regiment, will shortly relinquish his appointment as A.D.C. to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and will be succeeded by Lieutenant W. Osborne, of the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles.

THE CHANDPORE CASE.—The Chandpore case in which Mr. E. E. Rouse, an Assistant Engineer of the Assam-Bengal Railway, was assaulted by some of the peons of the Sessions Judge, Mr. Geidt, who has upheld the conviction of two peons, and dismissed their appeal. Mr. Rouse stated that one Kali Mohan Gupta was the ringleader in the riot, and wanted to prosecute him before the Sub-divisional Officer of Chandpore, but as his application was disallowed, he made a motion before the Sessions Judge who has directed further enquiry to be made. This Kali Mohan Gupta is a Mohurir in the Chandpore Sub-divisional Office.

MR. ROSS, THE ACCUSER.—On the adjourned hearing of the case in which seven villagers were charged by Mr. Ross of the Mohunpore garden with rioting and using dangerous weapons being resumed on Tuesday before Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner. Babu Kaminee Kumar Chandra, pleader for the prosecution, stated that Mr. Ross was not willing to go on with the case so far as he was concerned. Five witnesses for the prosecution, namely, Mr. Benson, Ram Khelan, Bunko, Akmal Ali and Jadoo were cross-examined. The case was then adjourned till the 21st instant. Before rising the Court informed the defence pleader that the parties would not be required to attend on Monday, the 21st, as he would go through the record and then, if necessary, would ask the pleader to file the list of witnesses.

THE BORE—A FIASCO.—The anxiously expected heavy bore, the like of which had not been witnessed in the river Ganges which, as predicted by Mr. Forbes Mitchell, was to have taken place at 11 A.M. on Tuesday, proved a fiasco. Our reporter went to the river at 10-15 A.M. and observed that the river was exceptionally calm and low. From 10 A.M. there was a continuous run of carriages on both banks of the river, as it was expected that Calcutta would be partially flooded. The appointed hour came and went, but no bore was seen. The disappointment of the sightseers, who crowded the Strand on both sides, was great indeed. Messrs. Kapp and Co., and Messrs. Jhonstone and Hoffman, photographers of this city, were there with their photographic apparatus, and keen must have been their disappointment. Subsequently it was ascertained that a bore had really come in at 11-3 A.M., and broken at Shalimar Point. It was an ordinary and common bore. There was no force in it, being only 12 to 15 inches high.

MUSHROOM FARMING.—A correspondent writes from the hills:—During the rains, with growths of fungi on every side, it is curious that the idea of mushroom farming has never occurred to anyone. All that is required for this industry is a moist genial temperature between 50° and 60°, a godown with a bed of loam and horse droppings about three feet to four feet deep, and the mushroom spawn, which could be procured probably from a good seedman. After spreading the bed of manure and earth, a fortnight or so must be allowed for the heat and fermentation to subside; during this time the bed would require frequent turning. After the spawn is planted in a bed, showing from 85° to 95°, it requires very little attention. A covering of dry grass of five inches or so deep may be put over the bed a few days after the spawn has been inserted, and, should it become dry, it may be watered through a fine-rosed watering-can. This occupation is carried on largely in England, France, and America, and pretty widely also in Australia, and, if introduced into the Indian hill stations, would probably thrive as well there as anywhere in the world.

THE JUGGLER WOMAN CONVICTED.—Before Mr. G. C. Ghose, Honorary Presidency Magistrate, was concluded on Tuesday last the case in which the juggler woman, Lakhia Mallahin, stood charged by Babu Kessub Lall Surbhadricar, with cheating in respect of Rs. 100-8-0 by falsely representing to him that she would double the amount. Babu Lall Churn Palit appeared for the defence without taking his fees. His Worship delivered the following judgment: "I fully believe the story of the prosecution to be true. The complainant who is a silly man was merely duped by the accused and placing too much confidence on her, leaving the box open in her presence while he was asked to fetch a pebble, lost his money (the subject-matter of the charge) on the accused removing it in the interval. This becomes palpable by the complainant's finding on his return that the lid of the box had become inclined and the accused was laying her hand on it. The subsequent occurrences also corroborate the offence of the accused. The accused's conduct in not coming to the house at 6 o'clock and the bag peering through her coat while she sat later on on a spot close to and a coat with money pockets which she secreted under her wearing cloth which dropped down at the time and made apparent to Shaik Shaker. The complainant, who is a man of substance, I can never believe, would falsely charge the ragamuffin accused with the theft of his money. I see no reason why the complainant without any grievance would put himself to the trouble and expenses of a criminal prosecution. There are a few discrepancies in the cross-examination but they are very slight and affecting very minor points. I think in a case, which is true and which has not undergone previous manipulations as would be necessary in a false case the discrepancies themselves rather prove the truthfulness of the case. With the amazed crowd at her heels I am convinced that the accused is a villain impostor and countervailing thief. Sleight of hand has been her miserable weapon to allure and defraud the silly and those who would believe in a lie. As such the jail must open her door to receive her as the case has been fully and satisfactorily proved in my mind. As one presiding here to administer justice to the aggrieved and dissipate crime I must convict her. She is accordingly convicted under section 379 I. P. C. and sentenced to undergo (as she is a girlish woman) 3 months' simple imprisonment."

PEACE CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

THE text of this address, which the President read, may be translated as follows:—
"Gentlemen,—We have reached the end of our labours. Before separating and shaking hands for the last time in this beautiful House in the Wood, I would ask you to join me in renewing the tribute of gratitude which we owe to the gracious Sovereign Lady of the Netherlands for the hospitality which has been accorded to us in so large a measure. The wishes which Her Majesty expressed on a recent occasion, in a voice so charming and firm, were of good augury for the progress of our deliberations. May God shower his favours upon the reign of Her Majesty the Queen for the good of the noble country placed under her authority! We beg M. de Beaufort, in his capacity as honorary president of the Conference, to be kind enough to lay at the feet of Her Majesty our homage and good wishes. We also request His Excellency and the Netherlands Government to receive the expression of our sincere gratitude for the kind co-operation which they lent to us and which so greatly facilitated our task."

"It is with all my heart that I make myself the mouthpiece of your warmest thanks to the statesmen and eminent juriconsults who presided over the labours of our commissions, sub-commissions, and committees. They there displayed the rarest qualities and we are happy to be able to congratulate them on this account. Our reporters also have a claim to your gratitude. They set forth in their reports which are real masterpieces, the authorised commentary on the texts agreed upon. With a zeal worthy of all praise, our secretariat acquitted itself of an arduous duty. The faithful and complete minutes of our long and frequent sittings are there to furnish evidence of this."

"I have finally to thank you myself, gentlemen, for all the indulgent kindness which you have shown to your president. It is certainly one of the greatest honours of my long life, entirely devoted to the service of my Sovereigns and country, to have been called by you to the presidency of our high assembly. In the course of the years during which I have followed as an attentive witness and sometimes as a modest worker the events which will form the history of our century, I have seen the influence of the moral ideas in political relations grow by degrees. This influence has reached a memorable stage to-day. His Majesty the Emperor of Russia inspired by family traditions, as M. Beernert has happily pointed out, and animated by a constant solicitude for the welfare of nations paved in some sort the way for the realisation of these conceptions. You, gentlemen, who are younger than your president, will, no doubt, pass through the new stages on the road upon which we have entered. Now that, after so long and laborious a session, you have before your eyes the result of your labours, I shall take good care not to trouble you with the historic account of what you have accomplished at the price of so many efforts. I shall confine myself to selecting therefrom some general ideas."

THE MATERIAL RESULTS.

"Responding to the appeal of the Emperor my august master, the Conference accepted, the programme traced by the circulars of Count Muraviev and made it the subject of a prolonged and attentive examination. If the first commission, which took upon itself the military questions, the limitation of effectives and of Budgets, did not arrive at any considerable material results, it was due to the fact that it encountered technical difficulties and a series of cogitate considerations the examination of which it did not consider itself in a position to enter upon. But the Conference has requested the different Governments to resume the study of these themes. It adhered unanimously to the resolution proposed 'by the first delegate, of France—namely, that the limitation of military burdens at present weighing upon the world is greatly desirable for raising the material and moral well-being of mankind.' The Conference also adopted all the humanitarian proposals which were assigned for consideration to the second commission. In the same order of ideas it was able to give satisfaction to the long-expressed wish for the extension to naval warfare of the application of principles analogous to those which form the subject of the Geneva Convention. Taking up again a work inaugurated at Brussels 25 years ago under the auspices of the Emperor Alexander II., the Conference succeeded in giving a more precise form to the laws and customs of war by land."

"These are, gentlemen, positive results obtained after conscientious labours. But the capital works, the work which opens a new era, so to say, in the domain of the law of nations, is the convention for the pacific settlement of international conflicts. On its title-page is the inscription, 'of the General Maintenance of Peace.' Some years ago, when closing the Behring Sea arbitration, an eminent French diplomatist expressed himself as follows:—

"We have endeavoured to maintain intact the fundamental principles of this august law of nations which, like the canopy of heaven, stretches over all nations, and which borrows the laws of nature herself in order to protect the peoples of the earth, one from the other by inculcating upon them the dictates of mutual good will." The Peace Conference, which the authority attaching to an assembly of civilised States, on its part, also sought to safeguard in questions of capital interest the fundamental principles of international law. It set itself the task of defining them, of developing them, of applying them, in a more complete manner. It created on several points a new law corresponding with fresh necessities, with the progress of international life, and with the best aspirations of humanity. In fact, it accomplished a work which the future will, no doubt, call the 'First International Code of Peace,' and to which we have given the more modest name of 'Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Conflicts.'"

A PATHETIC CONCLUSION.

"In opening the sittings of the Conference, I mentioned, as one of the principal elements of our common study, and as the very essence of our task, the realisation of progress so impatiently looked for in the matter of mediation and arbitration. I did not deceive myself in anticipating that our labours in this matter would assume exceptional importance. The work is now accomplished. It bears testimony to the great solicitude of the Governments for what affects the pacific development of international relations and the well-being of peoples. This work is certainly by no means perfect, but it is sincere, practical, and wise. It seeks to conciliate, by safeguarding them, the two principles which form the basis of the law

of nations—the principle of the sovereignty of States and the principle of a just international solidarity. It sets forth that, in the new period upon which we are entering, what shall prevail are the works sprung from a desire for concord and fertilised by the collaboration of the States, seeking the realisation of their legitimate interests in a durable peace founded upon justice. The task accomplished by the Hague Conference in this direction is truly meritorious and beautiful. It responds to the magnanimous feelings of its august initiator; it will have the support of public opinion everywhere and will, I hope, meet with the approval of history."

"I shall not, gentlemen, enter into the details of the Act which several of us have just signed. They are set forth and analysed in the incomparable report which is in your hands. At the present hour it is, perhaps, too early to judge in its entirety of a work scarcely finished. We are, perhaps, still to near the cradle. We lack the aerial perspective. What is certain is that this work, undertaken on the initiative of the Emperor, my august master and under the auspices of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, will develop in the future. As was said on a memorable occasion by the president of our third commission, the greater the progress made on the road of time the more clearly will its importance come out! Now, gentlemen, the first step has been taken. Let us unite our efforts and profit by experience. The good seed is sown; let the harvest come."

"As regards myself, I who have reached the term of my career, and the downward slope of life, consider it as a supreme consolation to have seen the opening of new perspectives for the good of humanity, and to have been able to cast my eyes into the brightness of the future."

THE MOHUNPUR RIOT CASE.

PROSECUTION OF THE VILLAGERS.

THE Mohunpur riot case again came on for hearing before the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar on Friday, the 18th of August.

The Court was crowded with natives, but no Europeans were present on this occasion excepting such as were concerned in the case.

The first witness called was Mr. Benson, an assistant at Burnie Braes. In cross-examination he said, "I do not know where Exhibit E. was before the present time. On being shown Exhibit E (i.e., the notes made by Mr. Lees regarding the marks on Mr. Ross and which had been signed by Mr. Lees and the witness,) Mr. Benson said: I do not know when and by whom the exhibit was filed in Court, nor by whom it was produced. Mr. Lees at the present time is at Burnie Braes; he is still unwell. (This point was raised with reference to the absence of Mr. Lees who had been unwell for some time.) I did not ask Mr. Ross on the occasion of his visit to Burnie Braes on the 7th of February how the marks on his body had occurred. Mr. Lees may have questioned him on the subject. Of the bruises I noticed on Mr. Ross one seemed to me to be more severe, that is, more swollen than the rest. The bruises were across the arm and not lengthwise. Personally I had nothing to do with the writing of the notes regarding the marks. Mr. Lees made them, and I at his request merely signed them."

On re-examination by the pleader for the prosecution Mr. Benson said: Mr. Lees has been unwell for a month past.

Ram Kalown, coolie, said: I went only once with the Sahib to the jungle. I had previously been once to the north of the spot with two chowkidars but not with the Sahib. On the day of the occurrence the Sahib did not say "I am going to see the Farri," nor do I remember having said that he had said so when I was making my statement to the Magistrate at Hailakandi. On arrival at the scene of the occurrence I said the land was Mohunpur land, and when the enquiry was going on the Sahib did say the land was his. The land upon which the two men were arrested is the Sahib's land. I know it because the two chowkidars had already told me so. When we all ran away from the spot we were going north. The Bengalis came from the south and beat us on our backs as we retreated. We did not abuse the Bengalis as we were going away. The Sahib drew his revolver only when he was struck with the *dao*. The Sahib said several times "take care, take care, do not come nearer as I have a revolver in my hand. He kept repeating this; he said nothing more. The Bengalis at this time were within a few feet of us. At the time the Sahib had his revolver no one attempted to lay hold of him. At the time the revolver went off the Sahib was quite near and so were the other coolies. I did not see anyone fall. When the revolver went off the Bengalis were thrusting the pointed bamboos at us. We were frightened for our lives. When the Bengalis came on shouting "maro, maro," we released the men who had been captured. The Sahib had said previously that these men must be caught. I am unable to point out all the boundaries of the land belonging to the Bengalis, but I can point out the eastern boundary. Previous to the occurrence in the jungle I had not on any occasion seen any of the accused."

On two occasions I was asked to identify the accused, once by the Magistrate Sahib and once by the Police Sahib and the Darogah. I cannot now remember whom I identified. After the firing of the revolver we went to the stream and Bunko said to the Sahib that a man had fallen, and the Sahib said, "What can be done?" When we returned to the garden on the 7th of February after the occurrence, we had fever and could not at once go to work. I cannot say whether or not the Sahib's that fell off when he was struck."

(By the Court.) I identified Fakirdhan in the presence of the Hailakandi Magistrate Sahib. I identified others also, but I particularly remember pointing out Fakirdhan. Re-examined, he said: I showed the *farri* to the Sahib, and when he saw the Bengalis cutting bamboos he said "We must catch these men." (Here witness pointed out four of the accused in Court as having been identified by him before the Magistrate.)

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Bunko, coolie, cross-examined, said: On the day of the occurrence, after our return to the garden, we were told by the Sahib not to go to work on the following day, as the Magistrate was coming. On the day previous to the occurrence I had never visited that spot. When we saw the Bengalis cutting bamboos on the Mohunpur land the Sahib said "Catch these men." He caught one man himself. The men caught said nothing. During the *galmal* the Sahib drew his revolver when struck with the *dao*. After the revolver went off I saw a man fall. We were only a few feet away from the Bengalis at the time. It was then they thrust bamboos at us. (Witness here gave an account of the manner in which Mr. Ross and the coolies retreated.) After the firing of the revolver no one assaulted the Sahib. We were all assaulted before, but with the exception of the man who struck the Sahib with a *dao* I cannot say who the assailants were. When the Bengalis commenced to assault us the two captured men got away, but I cannot say how. It was not at Hailakandi but in the jungle that I told the Magistrate I had seen a man fall. The Bengalis did abuse us."

Re-examined, the witness explained about the man falling, and the manner of the assault, &c.

Jadu, coolie, stated: I had never visited the scene of the occurrence before. I do not know why the Sahib took us to the jungle; he did not tell us the reason of our going there. On arrival at the spot Ram Kalown, when we saw the Bengalis cutting bamboos, said "This is Sahib's land." The Sahib caught one man and he wrestled with him, and when the men were being caught the other Bengalis commenced to run away. (Here witness explained the revolver accident.) When we retreated, I did not notice whether the Sahib had his revolver in his hand or not. The Sahib said nothing to the Bengalis; we were all running as hard as we could. I cannot say in what position the Sahib was at this time. (The remainder of the evidence practically corroborated that of Ram Kalown.)

(By the Court.) I did mention to the Hailakandi Magistrate that when we were retreating the Sahib raised his revolver, and, while backing pointed it in the air, saying "Do not assault us any more; take care."

Re-examined, the witness said: At that time we ran away we were in front and the Sahib was behind."

The Mohunpur Doctor Babu, called, said: He had examined the wounds both on Mr. Ross and on the coolies, and gave an explanation with regard to what he had noticed. His evidence in no way differed materially from that in his examination-in-chief."

This closed the case for the prosecution. The Deputy Commissioner here asked the pleader for the defence whether he proposed to call any witnesses on behalf of the accused. The pleader answering in the affirmative, Captain Herbert devoted a brief space to the consideration of the matter; he then said, "I shall take time to give the whole of the case consideration. In the event of my deciding to proceed with the case, which is postponed *pro tem*, I will announce on Monday next whether or not the accused may call for their witnesses, and in that case summonses will be issued in due course. It will not be necessary for either party to appear on Monday, and the witnesses for the prosecution are now discharged.—*Englishman*."

INDIA GAZETTE.

MR. REUTHER, Officiating Conservator of Forests, Pegu Circle, in Lower Burma, is granted 3½ months' privilege leave. Mr. Carr, Deputy Conservator, officiates.

Mr. Sheridan, Second Assistant Director-General of the Post Office in India, is granted three months' leave. Mr. Gorman of the Railway Mail Service, acts for Mr. Homan as third Assistant Director-General.

Mr. Biscoe officiates on return from leave as Deputy Traffic Superintendent, North-Western Railway, *vice* Mr. Vining on furlough. Mr. Bean then reverts to the District Traffic Superintendent.

Mr. Phelan officiates as Chief Engineer and Secretary, Punjab, *vice* the Hon. Mr. Beresford, proceeding on privilege leave, and Mr. Molloy officiates as Superintending Engineer, *vice* Mr. Phelan.

Captain Beville is posted as Assistant Commissioner of Merwara and Lieutenant McConaghey as Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent in Rajputana.

THE Poite is preparing a Note declaring the allegations against the Hedjaz authorities, in reference to the spoliation of Indian pilgrims, are wholly unsubstantiated. The latest accounts say it is taking a more conciliatory form.

At the final sitting of the Peace Conference on Saturday, letters exchanged by Queen Wilhelmina and the Pope were read. The latter wrote that the action of the Pontificate for the promotion of the general welfare of mankind rises above individual interests, which the different States have in view, and, better than any other, it knows who is to incline to concord in so many people of diverse genius. The Pope also laid stress on the part played by his predecessors and himself as arbitrators. The President then addressed the Conference. "The good grain had been sown; let us wait for the harvest." He concluded: "As to myself, who have arrived at the term of my career and the decline of my life, I consider it a supreme consolation to witness the advent of new prospects for the welfare of humanity, and to be able to cast a glance at the brightness of the future." The Press comments on the constant and cordial co-operation of the British and American delegations throughout the Conference."

A Mother Tells How She Saved Her Little Daughter's Life.

I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines. Last summer my little daughter had the dysentery in its worst form. We thought she would die. I tried everything I could think of, but nothing seemed to do her any good. I saw by an advertisement in our paper that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was highly recommended and sent and got a bottle at once. It proved to be one of the very best medicines we ever had in the house. It saved my little daughter's life. I am anxious for every mother to know what an excellent medicine it is. Had I known it at first it would have saved me a great deal of anxiety and my little daughter much suffering. Yours truly, Mrs. Geo. F. Burdick, Liberty, R. I. For sale by

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TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

DINAJPUR, AUG. 21.

A football match was played between Dinajpur and Saidpur with the result that Dinajpur beat Saidpur by two goals to nil. Messrs. Pope and White played admirably.

SHILLONG, AUG. 21.

A monster meeting, attended, among others, by over 300 donors, subscribers, and contributors to the funds of the Quinton Hall, was held yesterday, at the Quinton Hall, for finally adopting the trust deed for it and appointing trustees. Both the hall and the gallery were crowded to suffocation, many people standing outside for want of accommodation inside. A public meeting of all communities in Shillong, held on the 30th April last, decided on the appointment of trustees by a majority of 62 against 6 votes, of a Committee to prepare the draft deed which was presented at yesterday's meeting, and unanimously adopted with slight modifications. Seven gentlemen, representing important communities, were appointed trustees and a sub-committee was formed to take further steps towards the execution of the deed.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

PARIS, AUG. 19.

At to-day's sitting of the Court Martial at Rennes Colonel Du Paty de Clam was called as a witness, but did not appear on the ground of illness. Major Cuigent, belonging to the Staff, produced a sensation by a positively affirming the authenticity of a letter from Colonel Schneider (Military Attaché of the Austrian Embassy, Paris), which Colonel Schneider formally declared to be a forgery. The letter referred to the guilt of Dreyfus.

LONDON, AUG. 19.

The plague has appeared at Magude, which is two days' journey from Lourenzo Marquies.

BERLIN, AUG. 19.

Notwithstanding the recent emphatic speeches of the Emperor, insisting upon the necessity of the measure, the Prussian Diet has rejected, by a large majority, the Bill to construct a canal between Dortmund and the Rhine. This implies a complete breach between the Conservatives and the Crown.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

It is stated that according to present arrangements, the force to be employed in South Africa in the event of hostilities will consist of twenty-one battalions of Infantry, six regiments of Cavalry, four batteries of Horse Artillery, eleven batteries of Field Artillery, and three companies of the Royal Engineers, the total amounting to about thirty-two thousand men. Twelve hundred of the Infantry will be mounted.

LONDON, AUG. 19.

Dr. Leyds has been instructed by the Transvaal Government to go to Lisbon immediately, in order to lodge a vigorous protest against the detention at Delagoa Bay of a large consignment of ammunition destined for the Transvaal on board the steamer *Reichstag*. A second consignment is due at Delagoa Bay to-day on board the steamer *Koenig*.

PARIS, AUG. 19.

The evidence of M. Bertulus and General Picquart in favour of Dreyfus was remarkably lucid and weighty, but the Court-martial, which listened absently to the protracted speeches of the ministers and Generals, showed impatience when listening to General Picquart's explanations.

Maitre Labori is rapidly recovering from his bullet-wound.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The British India Company has arranged to run a regular passenger service between Penang and Rangoon, commencing in November connecting with the North German Lloyd steamers.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The steamer *Orizaba*, which collided with the *Clan Mackay* in the Suez Canal was not damaged, and went on her voyage.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht *Shamrock* has arrived at New York, having been mostly towed across the Atlantic.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

It is expected that Austria will send to the French Government a formal contradiction of Major Cuignet's statement regarding Colonel Schneider, with the request that he must withdraw his statements.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

Count Goluchowski, the Austrian Foreign Minister, had a five hours' private conference with Herr Von Bülow, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday at Semmering.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

It is reported at Capetown that Mr. Conynghame Green has received the reply of the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch, but the nature of the same is not known.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

Serious disturbances broke out in Paris to-day. A body of armed anarchists sacked the Church of St. Joseph's tabernacle, smashed the host, profaned the altars and destroyed the pictures. The Republican guards attacked the anarchists, who took refuge in the belfry from which they were dislodged after a fierce fight.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

Oporto is to be isolated, and a sanitary cord drawn round the city. Plague is reported to have broken out at Barcelona and elsewhere where in the Spanish Peninsula.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

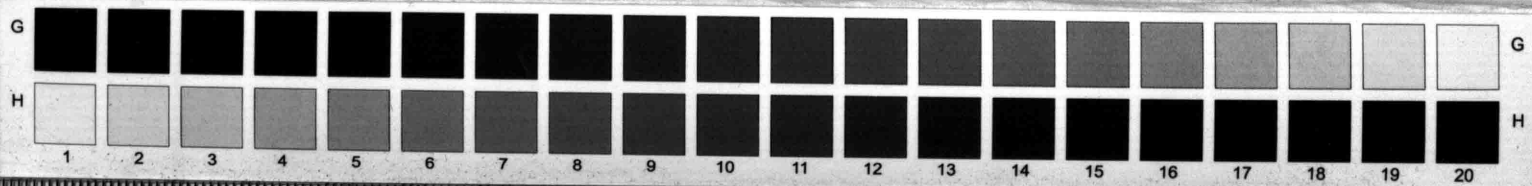
The steamer *Eden Hall* was towed into Malta with her shaft broken and has been placed in quarantine.

LONDON, AUG. 21.

The news that Mr. Kruger's reply has been received is confirmed, but its purport has not yet been stated. There is reason to believe, however, that Mr. Chamberlain's proposal for a joint enquiry into outstanding questions has not been accepted, but that the President has advanced fresh proposals.

THE services of Mr. E. G. Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the Khulna District Police, have been placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

THE increase in the revenue of the Special Court of Lower Burma for the year ending 1897 was Rs. 703; for the year ending December last it was over Rs. 8,700. The yearly expenditure on the establishment is only Rs. 1,200, being the salary of the Bench Clerk.



A MARVELOUS MEMORY.

We (*Madras Times*) have in Madras a man, who, we should imagine, might well aspire to be a man with the champion memory powers for the world. He gave an exhibition of his powers some time ago before his Excellency the Governor at Government House; but he has apparently gone on cultivating his memory to still greater powers, for according to a programme of a performance that he is to give to-morrow evening at Pachaiyappa's College, his memory is marvellous indeed. The performance is to consist of a lot of extraordinary things done simultaneously. He is to open the performance by playing a memory game of chess with two players. That is to say each antagonist will be provided with a chess-board, which the performer, G. C. Vedanta Desika Chariar by name, will not see, but by remembering the positions of the pieces on each board, he will direct the play from memory. Many professional chess-players can do more than this, but the reader must hear more. The performer will not weary the audience with dull chess play; for while the games are going on throughout the evening he will be doing other feats of memory at the same time, multiplying huge figures, finding out square roots, composing Sanskrit verses on any given subjects, and doing a number of extraordinary things. Meanwhile a gong will be struck at odd intervals during the performance, and the performer will count the strokes, to give the total at the end of the evening. This will perhaps be the most worrying thing of all, for just when he is getting to the end of a long square root, the sound of the gong, with one more stroke to count, will cut in upon his memory. He is altogether a surprising man and if he gets through all that he promises in his programme, he should not hide his light in Madras, but should seek the note that such phenomenal memory might get him.

WALKING HELPS ONE TO THINK.

A MAN, long distinguished for the amount and quality of his intellectual labours, when asked what he did when at a loss for ideas, said, "I take a walk."

The answer thus curtly made may at first glance appear unsatisfactory, even trivial, as it unfortunately coincides with a phrase of popular slang; but the speaker was sincere, and further explanation showed that he had found the habit of taking a walk very profitable, especially when his mind needed refreshment.

Writing is almost necessarily a sedentary habit, but thinking should not always be done with pen in hand, even when the result is at last to be literature; the desk habit sooner or later shows in work that is both originated and done between a chair and a writing-pad. This may be said of almost every kind of intellectual work.

It is the stirring man who keeps well in the current of life and its timely interests. The Premier who takes a walk and touches elbows with the moving crowd in the street or highway catches the large, influential thoughts of the day. The orator gathers inspiration for his men-moving, and opinion-moulding eloquence from a thousand hints and suggestions dropped to him out of apparently insignificant sources while he is seeking rest from the investigating of the study.

Ministers who preach with greatest effect come to the pulpit fresh from the outdoor world where they have connected themselves with lives activities and with Nature's marvels of beauty. Teachers, from whom their classes receive the best enlightenment are those who break away from the dry stiff trammels of conventional scholarship and take a walk, with the morning wind in their ears, and the sunshine in their eyes, returning full of freshness, courage and health.

Men of affairs who carry forward large enterprises successfully through a long struggle are not those whose trousers habitually bag at the knees under the force of an unbroken sedentary experience. Feet and legs have an inferior, but enormous responsibility in working out a civilisation.

When the famous man said, "I take a walk," he doubtless understood the full significance of his sentence. As civilisation develops, activity is in danger of being displaced by a certain powerful yet decadent inertia. Effort falls into grooves, and is guided from afar by stationary agents, who rapidly become a mere sitting intelligence. Renewal cannot come to a fixed point; change is progress or retrogression; but there must be change; the community, the nation, the world must accept it and make the most of it.

COLONEL SINCLAIR has been appointed by the Secretary of State as Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras. His successor at Rangoon is not known. Probably Colonel Branfoot will fill the vacancy.

TRAVELLING through part of the Agra Division last week, writes a correspondent to a contemporary, I heard a wondrous tale of a talking peepul tree, that prior to being cut down, exclaimed "Rain in Asak, drought in Sawan, war in Bhodon." An absurd speech and yet eagerly listened to by credulous villagers.

BRITISH soldiers or any members of their families, going to Paris for treatment at the Pasteur Institute will, under a new order of the Commander-in-Chief, have to provide themselves with a statement setting forth the history of their cases. Special stress is laid upon particulars relating to the dog which bit the patient, and the evidence forthcoming to prove it was suffering from rabies. On arriving in Paris one of Messrs. Cook and Sons' representatives will act as "guide, philosopher and friend" in making the necessary translations, and will accompany the patient on his first appearance at the Institute.

At the Planter's Conference the following further important resolution was passed:—That the Association address the Government of Madras supporting the view expressed by the Chambers of Commerce on the west coast, that a safe harbour is more urgently needed on the west coast than the improvement of lighthouses round the coast. A letter was read from Sir Frederick Price, Australia, intimating that a consignment of ladybirds will be despatched by post in October; also that moth has been discovered which can fig the ladybird points in eating scalebeasts.

A MAORI PRINCE.

AN excellent story of a modern New Zealand, as appears in a recent issue of the *Globe* and is well worthy of reproduction. A Maori Prince is spending the summer in Chicago, and is described by an American paper as "a well-dressed, pleasant-spoken gentleman with fine features, a clear olive complexion, wavy black hair and moustache." It is also added that he has the broad shoulders and physique of an athlete, that he is refined and cultured, speaks English fluently, and has drop-kicked a football eighty-three yards. This Admirable Crichton is called William Pitt Pomare, after his grandfather, who was a contemporary of the great British statesman, and is employing his time in studying medicine at the Chicago Medical Mission. Reformation in his habits is complete, for this descendant of cannibals is an enthusiastic vegetarian and shudders at the thought of eating a cutlet just as much as he shudders at the thought of his ancestors having consumed human flesh. But he is not without humour, and tells an amusing story of an ancient Maori chief who once made the attempt to dine off a missionary. The missionary was old and thin, and told the chief frankly that his flesh was not worth eating. To prove his words the European tucked up his trousers and boldly cut a slice out of his calf, handing the morsel to his captor. The chief tried it with all the usual formalities of an epicure, and pronounced it unappetising, but to confirm his impression, passed the remainder to another chief. This warrior tasted it, but could not even swallow it, and the missionary was released without a stain upon his character. It was a cork leg.

CHROMOPATHY.

SEVERAL accounts have appeared from time to time of what is known as the "colour-cure" of different diseases, and now we find such a reliable authority as the *Lancet* putting a certain amount of faith in "Chromopathy" or the "Colour-cure." Briefly, the idea of chromopathy is that when a man is ill, he has too much of one colour or another in his body, and must counteract this by saturating himself with the component colour. For instance, if a man has fever, he has too much "red" in his body, and must cure himself by sitting in a green light. If a man has a bad cold, he has too much "blue" in his body, and should sit in an orange light. The light can be secured by coloured blinds or by putting coloured pieces of glass up at the window. Chromopathy goes further, however, and provides a man with internal medicines, such as "red-water," that is to say water which has been kept in the sunshine in a red glass bottle, blue water, green water, and the like. The *Lancet* does not go so far as the chromopathic apostle, but that it is not without its measure of faith is apparent from the following:—"In our conscious superiority to our forefathers, who have been used to look with contempt on their practice of treating cases of small-pox by means of red light in the form of red blinds, curtains, and coverlets, but with our present knowledge of the chemical and physical action of the different rays of the spectrum and the influence of light and darkness on life in its highest and lowest manifestations, we may have felt a suspicion that, whatever the theory of the medieval physicians, their practice may have had a scientific basis." The *Lancet* goes on to quote some interesting stories from the German. A child, eight years of age, having sickened with an attack of measles of more than usual severity was on the second day brought under the influence of the rays of least refrangibility, the windows being fitted with red blinds and a photographer's lamp with an orange yellow globe being used for artificial light. In three hours the rash had disappeared the fever had subsided, and the child was playing cheerfully, complaining only of want of light. The blinds were consequently removed, when three hours later the medical man was summoned to find that the eruption and fever had returned and the child was weak and prostrate. The red light having been resumed the rash disappeared in a little over two hours, as did the fever, this time permanently. In two more days the cough had ceased, and the child was well in every respect. The brother and sister and a fourth patient infected from the first case were treated in the same way and with like success. In the great epidemic of small-pox in 1871-72 some cases were reported as having been kept in dark rooms with great benefit, especially as regards the postulation and pitting. Our medical contemporary concludes that clearly there "may be" virtue in the system.

The latest development of wireless telegraphy will probably do more than many Peace Conferences to suppress war. The experiment was recently made at Newbury of firing a powder magazine, electrically, from a distant point without contact. The object of this experiment was to give practical demonstration of the possibility of utilising the principle of aetheric communication in time of war to explode mines and similar destructive contrivances, the only connection necessary being through the medium of the all-pervading aether. The advantages of this system are claimed to be that there would be no connecting wires to be cut by an enemy, nothing which could fall into their hands, while no earthly power could prevent the communication from being established at the right moment. The initial experiment proved a perfect success. Mrs. Mackerness, wife of Mr. F. Coleridge Mackerness, Recorder of Newbury, touched a button attached to the powerful instrument in the electric station, with the result that at a distance of four hundred yards from the magazine the structure was instantly blown into atoms.

TROUBLESOME TO THE ARMY.

During the civil war, as well as in our late war with Spain, diarrhoea was one of the most troublesome diseases the army had to contend with. In many instances it became chronic and the old soldiers still suffer from it. Mr. David Taylor of Wind Ridge, Greene Co. Pa., is one of these. He uses Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and says he never found anything that would give him such quick relief as is for sale by

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JOURNALISM FLOURISHES THERE.

A LONDON journalist, who has paid a visit to Japan, made the following interesting observations on Japanese journalism:—

There are hundreds of newspapers in Japan, and they all seem to flourish, for the Japanese are great readers.

Printing, however, is a much more difficult business there than here as you will understand when I say that the language is made up of some four thousand different characters, all of which have to be represented in type. The compositor is pretty well occupied—in fact, each type-setter has to be assisted by five or six boys, who hunt up such characters as are out of his reach.

"The Japanese reporter is a smart journalist—plucky, enterprising, and energetic, with a great capacity for drawing on his imagination when news is scarce! During the war with China a large number of Japanese war correspondents were killed, owing to their eagerness to be at the front when any fighting was going on.

"The chief drawback to journalism in Japan is the strict censorship established by the Government. No paper can publish any news concerning State affairs without permission, and the result is that in their anxiety to be up-to-date Japanese journalists occasionally make acquaintance with the inside of a gaol for infringing this rule.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

BABU MANASAR RANJAN SEN, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of the Sonthal Parganas.

The following officers are appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of District and Sessions Judges: Kumar Gopendra Krishna; Mr. W. Teunon, Mr. C. Gordon, and Mr. C. W. E. Pittar.

Mr. W. F. C. Montrieux, Dy. Magte and Dy Collr, Cuttack, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. J. R. Blackwood, Offg Personal Asst to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, is allowed leave for three months, viz., two months, under the Resolution of the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 5047P, dated the 15th November 1897, and one month under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Sarat Chander Chatterji, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Champaran, is appointed to have charge of the Bhabhua sub-div.

Babu Atul Behary Moitra, Dy. Magte and Dy Collr, Murshidabad, is allowed furlough for two months, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Jogendra Nath Bondopadhyay, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Faridpur, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. W. N. Delevigne, sub pro tem Jt. Magte and Dy Collr, Chuadanga, is allowed leave for two months and three days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Khagendra Nath Mitra, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is appointed to the charge of the Chuadanga sub-div.

The services of Mr. W. S. Adie, i.c.s., are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Govt of India in the Home Dept, on being relieved of his present appt as Asst Settlement Officer, Mazaffarpur, Champaran, Saran and Darbhanga.

Babu Gagan Chandra Das, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for three months, under article 369 of the Civil Service Regulations.

The following transfers are sanctioned: Mr. E. H. Corbett, Proby, Asst Supdt of Police, Saran, to Backergunge; Mr. F. L. Peters, Proby Asst Supdt of Police, Purnea, to Mymensing; Mr. O. Mawson, Proby Asst Supdt of Police, Bhagalpur, to Dacca; Mr. A. O. Johnston, Proby Asst Supdt of Police, Bhagalpur, to Purnea.

Mr. J. R. Berington, Dist Supdt of Police, is posted to Dinapur.

Babu Ras Behari Biswas, Offg Dist Supdt of Police, Dinajpore, is transferred to Khulna.

The services of Mr. E. G. Hart, Asst Supdt of Police, in charge of the Khulna Dist Police, are placed at the disposal of the Govt of India in the Home Department.

Maulvi Abul Fatah Mahomed Abdul Hafeez, Sub-Regt, Saran, is allowed extraordinary leave, without allowances, for seventeen weeks, under article 372 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. L. Hallward, Prof, Dacca College, is allowed furlough for 14 months, under article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, Mr. Naline Kanta Nag, B.A., acting for him.

Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterjee, Insp of Schools, Burdwan Circle, is allowed leave for two months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Shams-ul-ulama Abul Khair Muhammad Siddiq, Asst. Insp of Mahomedan Education, Rajshahi and Burdwan Divs. is appointed to have charge of the office of the Insp of Schools, Burdwan Circle, in addition to his own duties.

Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, Supdt. of the Dacca Madrasah, is allowed leave, for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. H. R. James, Professor, Patna College, has been granted an extension of three months furlough.

Babu Probode Chunder Dutt, Munsif, of Chittagong, is allowed furlough for two months, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kali Dhan Chatterjee, Munsif of Berhampore, is allowed leave for twenty-five days, under article 307 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Maulvi Shah Mahomed Azizuddin, Sub-Dy Collr, Malda, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

THE KASHMIR STATE GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATE

establishing a seismological observatory at Srinagar.

In revenge for the rescue by the Umarzais of the Khattak flocks last week, the Gumati outlaws on the 18th instant again made a raid and carried off some camels, oxen and sheep belonging to the Umarzais at Garang, which is in independent territory. A pursuit party followed up, but the gang got away with the loot, after killing one Umarzai and wounding another.

GHOST HAS A PICTURE TAKEN.

HERE is a real ghost photograph with an affidavit to prove its truth!

Joseph Jeanes of Chester, Pa., a man past 70 years of age, whose integrity is above reproach, is responsible for one of the strangest stories that ever came out of the mysteries of a photographer's dark room.

One oath he states that while he was developing a plate a few days ago the ghastly outline of a man long dead appeared upon the negative beside the picture of the man he had photographed. The latter being a friend of the dead man, recognized him immediately. The results gained were not due to any tricks of the photographer, so common to-day, and were a genuine surprise to him.

Mr. Jeanes has taken his affidavit to the truth of the picture, as he comes from good Quaker stock it will be accepted.

This is how the ghost appeared in the picture: A man who gave his name as Burnes went to Jeanes' establishment to have a photograph taken. Burnes, who is an athlete, had the picture taken in his athletic costume. The exposure was made and the plate was being developed when something white appeared upon the negative, mixed in with the background. At a loss to know what it was Mr. Jeanes threw the plate away.

"Guess we'll have to try again," he remarked to Burnes, who was waiting to see the negative.

The second exposure was made and the same mysterious shadow appeared upon it.

"Something's wrong with that plate, too," said Jeanes, and he made a third exposure.

The same shadow appeared like a fatal stain upon the third exposure, but in a less marked degree, and Jeanes decided to print it. He told Burnes to call for the finished pictures in a few days.

Burnes called and when the pictures were handed to him, he looked at the first one and exclaimed:

"Good heavens! How did that get there?"

"I am as much at a loss to account for it as you are," replied Jeanes. "My dark room is all right. My developer is good. That never happened to me before in all my experience."

"It's my trainer," shouted Burnes, still fearfully agitated.

"Your trainer?" repeated Jeanes blankly.

"And he has been dead four years!" cried Burnes, dropping the photograph in dismay and retreating toward the door.

"Come in to-morrow and we'll try it again, to see if the same thing appears," solicited the photographer.

"Not if I know myself," replied Burnes. "You couldn't get me into that studio of yours again with a team of mules."

He darted out of the door and down the street as if an army of spirits were after him.

WONDERFUL YARN ABOUT A TIDAL WAVE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

THE crew of the British bark Bandaneira, while on the shore of Chili, passed through a frightful experience with a tidal wave, and which, had it not been for a most remarkable intervention on the part of nature, would have left the bark high and dry a mile from shore.

The Bandaneira sailed from Iquique March 15. She had loaded there a cargo of nitrate for the Dupont Powder Company of this city. This town is practically the centre of constant earthquakes. An observation station is maintained there from which warnings are sent to masters of vessels before they leave port. The barometer had been low from March 10 but Captain Fant struck boldly out for the Horn. During the next two days the barometer dropped still lower, and it was evident that a fearful hurricane was brewing. The crew besought the captain to return to Iquique, but he refused.

"We are already three days on our way," he said, "and we are all right yet. In all probability the worst is over now."

His assumption was wrong, however, for at noon the following day an immense wall of water apparently nine miles to the west rolled slowly down upon the bark. As slowly she commenced to drift toward the coast, seven miles to the eastward.

Apparently the tidal wave was about 100 feet in height, and had an area of twenty miles in almost a complete circle. It advanced rapidly, but the bark, keeping ahead, reached the shore line first. The coast at this point was flat for nearly two miles inland, terminating abruptly at the base of almost perpendicular mountains. Captain Fant is sure that the Bandaneira approached to within 70 yards of the rocky walls. The pursuing volume of water was then apparently only two miles behind. Just at the moment when hope was gone the bark suddenly changed her direction and receded from her apparently inevitable fate.

An immense waterspout suddenly developed many miles away, and its influence changed the direction of the onrushing sea. The Bandaneira was thrown on her beam ends and drawn almost directly into the vortex of waters. Two hours later the sea had resumed its wonted aspect, having the bark uninjured.

THE Government of Bombay have asked that it may be made widely known that the Plague Research Laboratory has been removed to new premises in old Government House, Parel, Telegrams, letters, and Post Office parcels intended for the laboratory should be addressed to Plague Research Laboratory, Parel, Bombay. Parcels sent by rail should be addressed to Parel station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, or Elphinstone Road station on the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway.

PRACTICALLY no rain has fallen since the last report in the threatened areas of the Central Provinces, Guzerat, and the Deccan. A northerly slant also is appearing in the wind on the Malabar coast, while the Mail steamer's report indicates that the monsoon has to a large extent withdrawn from the Indian half of the Arabian Sea. Prospects, therefore, are exceedingly gloomy, the only element of hope being in the shallow barometric depression now forming off the Orissa Coast, which may possibly deepen and cross India like the last, inducing a return of the Arabian Sea monsoon. Meanwhile the Bay of Bengal monsoon, though weakening, continues to give fairly general rain throughout Northern India, where crop prospects accordingly are normal.

A NEW UTOPIA.

THE COMMENDABLE SCHEME OF THE DUTCH WOMEN.

TIME after time hopeful coteries have started the notion of relieving the glut of humanity in towns by colonising the country.

The women of Holland have started a movement of their own of this description, and, as might be expected from that thrifty people it is an eminently practical one. The object is to take the poor from the cities and plant them in country places.

Perhaps the scheme, although so old, deserves to be noted, since it has not seemed to appeal much to women's societies until the Dutch dames took hold of it.

The women who collect the funds and manage the business buy some sandy waste within easy distance of a town, reclaim the land, build sanitary cottages, and let them on easy terms.

The tenants' wives are started in poultry and dairy farming, and many of the men secure work in the neighbouring towns. In this way the labour of each sex tells, and the thrifty couples prosper.

BETRAYING A NATION'S SECRETS. LOVE AND WAR NOT SO WIDE APART.

AFTER ALL.

It is a remarkable fact, worth recalling just now, that nearly every act of military treachery which has developed into a public scandal during the last 30 years has been instigated by members of the fair sex. The old French adage, "Look for the woman," has been applicable to every case of military treason that has been brought to light during the past quarter of a century. The part played by Mlle. Pays and by Mme. de Boulaucy in connection with Col. Esterhazy in the Dreyfus case is only the most recent of a long number of analogous episodes.

Probably the most sensational was the senile infatuation of old Gen. de Cissey, Minister of War in Paris during the Presidency of Marshal MacMahon, for the well-born German spy, the Baroness de Kaula, whose domestic took shorthand notes of the contents of the Minister's portfolio of the veteran while he was lunching with the Baroness at her residence, adjoining the Elysee Palace, every Thursday after the meeting of the Cabinet Council.

These notes were transmitted in cipher to Berlin, and thus for two years Bismarck knew every Friday morning what had been decided at the French Cabinet Council held on the previous day.

This might have gone on indefinitely had it not been for the mistake made by the Baroness in obtaining from the Minister valuable army contracts for her proteges, which led to inquiries on the part of disappointed applicants.

It was a woman, too, who brought about the fall of Boulanger at the climax of his career. Had it not been for his infatuation for a married lady, the Viscountess de Bonnemain, he might be at the present moment ruling France. On the night of his election as member of the Chamber of Deputies for Paris he was urged by his partisans to march upon the Elysee, where he would have carried everything before him, but he preferred instead to hasten to the side of his fair friend, Mme. de Bonnemain, in Passy.

Women brought about the disgrace of Gen. Count Caffarelli, of General the Marquis d'Audouin, and of a number of other French staff officers concerned in the traffic in the Legion of Honour decorations, a scandal that culminated in the surrender of the Presidency by Grey. The woman in the case was Mme. Lamoignon, a woman of noble German birth married to a French magistrate of the highest integrity, and sister of one of the ladies-in-waiting to the Grand Duchess of Baden.

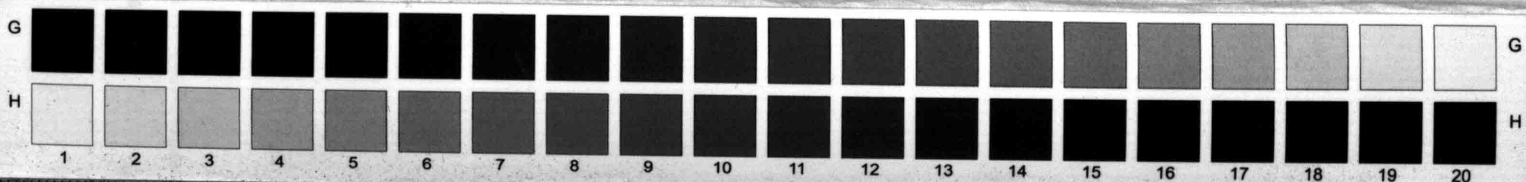
Besides the officers above mentioned, she brought about the ruin of Gen. Thibaudin, who for several years held the office of Minister of War. Gen. de Caffarelli, by the bye, was chief of the general staff of the French army, and his successor in that position Gen. de Bosidre, owes his present disgrace to his infatuation for the wife of one of the officers whose name figures in the Dreyfus case.

Only last year a number of Russian staff officers, including Gen. Paronoff and three colonels were sentenced to be hanged and shot for having sold to the Austrian authorities the Russian plan of mobilization. It was a woman of striking beauty, an adopted daughter of Gen. Paronoff who had played the Delilah, the three colonels having rendered themselves guilty of treason not so much for money as with the object of winning her favour.

Baron Pottier des Eschelles, an officer of the Austrian army, and a confidential aide-camp of Emperor Francis Joseph, is undergoing imprisonment as a traitor in the gloomy fortress of Przemisl. He owes his downfall to a lovely Muscovite Princess, who played a conspicuous role in Vienna. His treachery was discovered by chance. One evening Princess Arenberg, sister of Count Koloman Hunyady, Grand Master of Ceremonies, found on a sofa, after a reception, a slip of paper containing two columns of memoranda, the first giving a list of military documents and secrets of the Austrian War Department already furnished to Russia, the second column enumerating others which were to follow.

The sofa had been occupied during the evening by the fair Russian, above mentioned. She gave her brother the paper, urging him to see the Emperor. Careful examination of the handwriting brought the guilt home to Baron Pottier. No step taken by the War Department is adopted without the consent of the Emperor. Blindly trusting his aide-camp, the Emperor was wont to leave all confidential papers without the slightest attempt at secrecy, and the Baron had secured knowledge of everything submitted to the Emperor.

It was the latter who informed the Colonel that his treachery had been discovered; and the story was current that the Emperor struck the traitor in the face with his clenched fist. On issuing from the Emperor's study the Baron was taken before a court-martial, which sentenced him to forfeiture of his rank and title and to a long term of imprisonment. The ceremony of military degradation was, however, carried out in private, and it is well to compare the privacy with which this punishment was carried into effect with the public ceremony of degradation undergone by Dreyfus.



BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held at 11 A.M. on Monday in the Council Chamber, Writers' Buildings. The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn presided and there were present the following members:—*Official*—The Hon'ble Messrs Oldham, Buckley, Bolton, Baker, Durgagoti Banerjee, Buckland, Handley, Slack and Moulvi Delwar Hossein Ahmed, Khan Bahadur; *Non-official*—Babu Jatramohan Sen, Raja Shashi Shekharwar Roy, Raja Ranjit Sinha Bahadur, Sahibzada Mahomed Bukhtiyar Shah, Mr. D. F. Mackenzie, Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay, Babu Baikanta Nath Sen and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee.

INTERPELLATIONS.

RIOTING CASES IN KHULNA.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee asked:—Is it the case that in the Annual Administration Report of the Presidency Division it is shown that the Khulna district has returned the largest figure in the Province in rioting cases? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the causes to which this large number of rioting cases may be traced? Is it in any way connected with the inefficiency of the police? Will the Government be pleased to state what action it proposes to take in the matter?

Mr. Bolton replied:—The Hon'ble Member has not mentioned the year of the Annual Administration Report of the Presidency Division to which he alludes. In 1897, 160 cases of rioting were reported in Khulna. They arose mainly out of disputes relating to land. Conflicts for the possession of land were more numerous in consequence of a good harvest, following a season of scarcity. In the large reclaimed tracts, or *abads*, moreover, the boundaries are unsettled, and the lessees and their tenants are constantly quarrelling with one another. The Magistrate took special measures to check the increase of these cases by liberally rewarding the chaukidars for giving prompt information of apprehended riots, and binding down parties under sections 106 and 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Proceedings were also taken to decide cases of disputed possession under section 145 of the Code; and special police were deputed to the more important *abads*. The returns for 1898 show that the number of riots fell to 110 in that year; and in the first-half of the present year only 23 cases, one alone being serious and ending in loss of life, were reported. The measures taken by the Magistrate are sufficient, and they have been successful.

A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER.

Babu Surendranath Banerjee enquired whether the Government would be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the letter of this Government, addressed to the Government of India, No. 3837M, dated the 17th June, 1887, referred to by the Government of India in their letter No. 93, dated the 17th June last, containing the principal grounds for the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

Mr. Baker replied: The letter referred to in the question is confidential, and cannot be published.

BENGALI LITERATURE AND AUTHORS.

Raja Sasisekharwar Roy Bahadur, of Tahipur asked:—With reference to the principle contained in the English Enactment 53, George III, section 43, for the encouragement of the vernacular literature of this country, a portion of which I beg to quote below for easy reference, will the Government be pleased to state if any amount has of late been spent in Bengal for the improvement of Bengali literature or to give encouragement to Bengali authors in the shape of rewards or honours? That it shall be lawful for the Governor-General in Council to direct that out of any surplus which may remain of the rents, revenues and profits arising from the said territorial acquisitions, after defraying the expenses of the Military, Civil and Commercial establishments, and paying the interest of the debt in manner hereinafter provided, a sum of not less than one lakh of rupees in each year shall be set apart and applied in the encouragement and improvement of literature and the encouragement of the learned natives of India, and for the introduction and promotion of a knowledge of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories in India.

Mr. Slack replied: The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 32 of the report of the Indian Education Commission, of which for his convenience a copy is laid upon the table. From this it will be seen that after discussion the whole sum of one lakh was given for the encouragement and promotion of education in the country, and since then has been continuously increased.

Raja Sasisekharwar Roy Bahadur asked: Will the Government be pleased to take into its consideration with a view to encourage the growth of a healthy tone in Bengali literary works, the desirability of recognizing the merits of Bengali authors by bestowing suitable titles of distinction upon such of the eminent authors as deserve it and by occasionally helping them pecuniarily in their efforts to bring out books of original research and of public usefulness?

Mr. Slack replied:—Government is always willing on due cause, being shown to their satisfaction to recognize in the modes suggested by the Hon'ble Member the literary merits of Bengali authors. The Hon'ble Member is doubtless aware of the honours conferred on Raja Rajendra Lala Mitra, C. I. E., and Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh, Bahadur, and of the pecuniary aid given to Babu Pratap Chandra Roy, C.I.E., in the translation of the Mahabharata.

ROADS IN THE INTERIOR.

Raja Ranjit Sinha Bahadur of Nashipur, asked:—Having regard to the fact that there are many villages in the interior of the districts where there are no proper roads for communication for one village to another, and that the people are much inconvenienced for want of the same, especially in the rainy season, will the Government be pleased to direct the several District Boards of Bengal to give more attention to the village roads in their respective districts and to place a certain amount of their income every year in the hands of the Local Boards, to be utilized for that purpose only?

Mr. Baker:—If the Hon'ble Member will refer to the Resolutions recorded on the working of District Boards, which are published annually, he will see that the improvement of village roads has received the watchful attention of Government for many years past: the Lieutenant-Governor has no reason to doubt that these roads have received their fair share of the funds at the disposal of the District Boards.

A statement showing the expenditure incurred on village roads in each Division during each of the six years ending 1897-98 was laid on the table.

THE JANGIPUR VICE-CHAIRMAN'S CASE.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee asked as a supplementary question:—Has the attention of the Government been called to the case of one Mukunda Sundar Sirkar of Jangipur, in the district of Murshidabad? Is it the case (1) that Mukunda Sundar Sirkar was arrested on a charge of delivering a counterfeit coin knowing it to be counterfeit under section 241 I. P. C., although his name did not appear in the first information and the Police reported that there was no evidence against him; (2) that after arrest he was thrown into the jail; (3) that he was subsequently discharged by the trying Magistrate who remarked that the witnesses who had given evidence against him had perjured themselves. Is it true that the gentleman against whom these proceedings were taken occupied the responsible position of the Chairman of the Local Board? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what notice Government has taken of these proceedings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bolton said in reply: Government has seen the case mentioned by the hon'ble member, which was decided so far back as the 14th September 1898, nearly 12 months ago.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker presented the following further report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill:—

We, the undersigned members of the Select Committee to which the Calcutta Municipal Bill was referred back for further consideration with reference to the recent correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, have considered the said correspondence and have the honour to submit this our report, with the Bill, as amended by us, annexed thereto.

2. The first change recommended by the Government of India is that the number of Commissioners elected at ward elections should be reduced from fifty to twenty-five, only one Commissioner being elected for each ward, instead of two. The formal amendments required to give effect to this change have now been made in sections 6, 7, 34(3), 35, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 52B(1) and in rules 5 and 6 of Schedule IVB.

As a consequence of the reduction in the number of elected Commissioners, it has been necessary to modify the arrangements proposed for constituting the first body of Commissioners under the Bill. It was originally proposed that the 50 elected Commissioners should retain their seats till the 1st April, 1901, the date till which they would have been entitled to sit under the present Act. Now, however, that the number of elected Commissioners is to be reduced, this is no longer possible, and we consider that they should all vacate their seats on the 1st April, 1900, the date when, as we anticipate, the Bill will come into operation. On the other hand, it is not possible to hold a general election under the Bill before it comes into operation. The plan which commends itself to us is to direct that a fresh general election be held in March, 1900, under the present Act, and to declare that in such election only one Commissioner shall be elected for each ward. We have inserted a new section in the Bill, numbered 33A, to give effect to these recommendations.

3. In consequence of our recommendations that a fresh general election should be held in March, 1900, we have made the following amendments:—

(1) We have recast section 54, so as to bring to an end on the 1st April, 1900, the term of office of the present Commissioners;

(2) in section 45 (2), we have altered from 1901 to 1903 the year in which the next general election should take place;

(3) in rules 1 and 3 of Schedule IVA, relating to the preparation of the municipal election roll, we have altered from 1900 to 1902 the first year in which steps are to be taken for the preparation of the roll.

4. In consequence of the reduction in the number of Commissioners, we have:—

(1) in section 70 reduced from ten to seven the number of Commissioners required to sign a requisition for calling a special meeting; and

(2) in section 75, reduced from eighteen to twelve the number of Commissioners required to form a quorum.

We have also added an Explanation to section 75, declaring that the President at a meeting of the Corporation shall (when he is not the Chairman) be deemed to be a Commissioner for the purpose of forming a quorum.

5. The second change recommended by the Government of India is in the constitution of the General Committee. It is suggested in paragraph 18 of the Government of India's letter that one-third of the total number of twelve members should be nominated by the Government (as under the Bill as first amended by the Select Committee) and that the remaining two-thirds should be elected by the Corporation; and in paragraph 19 of that letter it is suggested that some plan should be devised to secure that the proportion of the Committee to be elected by the Corporation shall be a strictly fair and proportionate representation of the constituent elements of the electoral body.

To give effect to these suggestions, we have:—

(1) we have amended sub-section (2) of section 8 so as to provide that four of the members of the General Committee shall be elected by the Ward Commissioners and that four shall be elected by the Commissioners appointed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Trades Association, the Port Commissioners and the Government;

(2) we have altered sub-section (3) of section 8 so as to authorise the Local Government to make rules to regulate the said elections.

We have further, in sub-section (3) of section 8, altered "shall" to "may" so as to make the exercise of the Local Government's rule-making power permissive instead of obligatory.

6. The third and last suggestion made by the Government of India, is that it might be desirable to lay down rules for the appointment of the Special Committees and Sub-Committees which would secure their being truly representative in respect of their constituent elements, of the Corporation or General Committee appointing them.

It is difficult to frame clauses for insertion in the Bill to regulate the constitution of Special Committees and Sub-Committees on these lines, and it is hardly less difficult to devise an effective clause to authorise the making of rules for this purpose. We have, however, in deference to the wishes of the Government of

India, inserted a sub-section, numbered (3b), in section 88 of the Bill, empowering the Local Government to make rules declaring what proportion of—

(1) Ward Commissioners;

(2) Commissioners appointed by the bodies representing commercial interests; and

(3) Commissioners appointed by the Local Government, respectively, shall be nominated to be members of every or any Sub-Committee.

We have also inserted in section 89A (3) a reference to the new sub-section (3b) of section 88, the effect of which will be to give the Local Government a similar power to make rules in regard to the constitution of Special Committees.

At the same time, we feel bound to say that we entertain considerable doubt as to whether it will be possible to make workable rules of this character, or to give practical effect to any rules that might be made on the subject, however well they may be devised. It is even possible that such rules might impair the working efficiency of Committees appointed under them.

7. As it is now proposed to insert provisions in the Bill for regulating the constitution of Special Committees, a reference to such Committees has been inserted in clause (a) of section 95C so as to prevent proceedings under the Bill being questioned on the ground of there being a vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, any Special Committee.

We have altered sections 148M, 276D, 639 and 640 so as to admit of proceedings under those sections being taken in the Suburban Small Cause Courts, where the matters in dispute arise within the jurisdiction of those courts, instead of requiring the parties to resort to the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

9. We have made some minor alterations in the details of the Bill which it is unnecessary to describe in detail.

10. We recommend that the Bill, as now amended, be passed.—E. N. Baker, W. B. Oldham, R. B. Buckley, Durga Gati Banerjee, T. W. Spink, Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, D. F. Mackenzie.

I sign the Report subject to my Note of Dissent (which is to follow) it being understood that the Report and the Note of Dissent will be published at one and the same time. It is only fair that the public should have the report of the Majority and the Note of Dissent at one and the same time before them.

—Surendranath Banerjee.

I sign the Report subject to my Note of Dissent.—J. G. Aparcar.

CIVIL COURTS AMINS ACT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bolton moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856, in Bengal. He said:—I move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act of 1856 in Bengal; and, with your permission, will offer some remarks on the measure at this stage. In the course of the discussion of the Financial Statement I stated in reply to Raja Bahadur Ranjit Singh that the Government intended to submit this Bill to the Council. Messrs. Toynebee and Stevens, who were deputed some years back to report on the strength and pay of the ministerial establishments of the Civil Courts in this province brought to notice the very unsatisfactory working of the system of the Civil Court Amins and recommended its abolition. This view was accepted by the Government and eventually by the High Court, and it will, I think, be generally admitted that a change in the present system is desirable. The Act of 1856 provides for the appointments of paid Amins in the districts for the carrying out of local enquiries required by the Civil Courts and for specified duties, and the difficulty of finding a suitable non-official agency for such duties those days rendered the provision necessary. Every district, however, now possesses a large bar, from the junior members of which competent persons could be selected to act as commissioner for local investigations ordered by the Civil Courts under section 392 of the Civil Procedure Code and other qualified persons are also available. A certificate of qualification in surveying will be needed in the case of enquiries involving survey, but those who desire employment of this kind will have facilities for acquiring a knowledge of survey in the survey schools which exist in all parts of the province. The retention of the past system is, therefore, no longer necessary, and the Bill proposes its abolition by repealing the Act of 1856 so far as it applies to Bengal. The abolition can, however, only be effected gradually. The appointment and remuneration of the existing Amins must be saved, but it will no longer be compulsory to fill vacancies; and gradual reductions will thus take place until the staff disappears. The new system will probably, in the first instance, be introduced in the more advanced districts in which it may be expected that a sufficient number of independent persons competent to execute commissions will be forthcoming. The Bill consists of a single section with two sub-sections, the first repealing the Act and the second saving the appointments of the existing Amins and providing for their employment on such duties as may be required of them by the District Judges. It will, I presume, meet with no opposition and its reference to a Select Committee appears unnecessary.

The motion was put and agreed to.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor said:—It had been my intention to adjourn this Council till Saturday, the 2nd proximo, but I have been moved by two of the hon'ble members to postpone the next meeting till the 9th of September. They represent that they will not be ready before that date with the amendments of the Municipal Bill which they wish to bring forward. I cannot admit that the time given for the preparation of these amendments has been inadequate. The Bill is not a new one. It was under the patient consideration of a Select Committee of this Council for five months. The report of that Committee has been before the Council now for nearly four months, and the hon'ble gentleman who represents the Corporation succeeds to the careful labours of his predecessor and the Select Committee of which his predecessor was a member. I cannot, therefore, admit, that the matter had a sound claim for the postponement for which they ask. I understand, indeed, from my hon'ble colleague, Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, that he does not justify their unreadiness but appeals to our consideration the simple ground of the fact that they will not be ready. I yield with reluctance, for a postponement will be of inconvenience to many other members of the Council, but I am desirous

of meeting the wishes of Hon'ble members as far as possible, and I assent to the adjournment of the Council till Saturday, the 9th September. The Council is accordingly adjourned.

FARMING UP-TO-DATE.

ON a farm of 350 acres in the State of New York there is a complete electric plant, which produces the current for lighting and heating as well as for supplying the power for other operations connected with the farm.

All the mechanical energy is supplied by nature, and the cost and maintenance of the plant are inexpensive. It has demonstrated that electricity used for manual labour is a success.

The farm land is situated on both sides of a good-sized stream on which are two falls, one 60 feet and the other 180 feet high, and these furnish the power.

One motor of ten horse-power runs a mowing machine, another a threshing machine, and a third works a 44-inch saw for cutting logs.

The farmhouse is brilliantly lighted and well heated by electricity. The kitchen is supplied with an electrically heated cooking stove, and in the laundry the flat-irons are heated by the same power. In the dairy the churns and other appliances all have electric motor attachments. The grounds are lighted by several arc lamps, and the use of these in the barn greatly facilitates the work and lessens the danger of fire.

WHY GROW OLD?

A SCIENTIFIC REMEDY FOR SENILE DECAY.

THERE is some reason to believe that the elixir of life is not beyond the reach of scientific investigation. It is just possible that it may turn out not to be an elixir at all, but that really does not matter very much so long as the results are the same. Instead of an elixir, it is possible that it will turn out to be merely an electric current, but whatever name it is called, the thing that will enable us to prolong our lives will be welcomed by all. According to the "Lancet," a practical scientific method of postponing old age has been discovered and employed with considerable success by a Dr. Julius Althaus. It is by the application of electricity directly to the base of the brain that Dr. Althaus retards old age. While treating patients for various ailments by electricity, he discovered, by accident, that the treatment had a marked effect upon senility. He then began to practise it systematically for this last disease. In the first place, it should be remembered that what we call old age is far short of the natural length of life of our species.

Most physiologists agree that man should naturally attain a life of at least one hundred years, and that only abnormal conditions cause him to collapse from old age before then. To give man his natural length of life is the ideal of the physician. Dr. Althaus had had under treatment various professionals who, on leaving his hands, speak highly of his services. Sir Henry Irving has been treated in this way, and has derived much benefit from the operation.

Thus it will be seen that Dr. Althaus' method goes to the root of things, and postpones old age by renewing the vigour and energy of the human system. It is claimed that his treatment not only puts new life into old men, but can remove, by what are perfectly natural means the effects of overwork, and especially of overstudy, and thus increase not only the physical but also the mental powers of the species.

Dr. Althaus explains that the hardening of the walls of the arteries, which is the first symptom of old age, is followed by a disintegration of the brain cells, which gradually invades the whole organ and extends last to the medulla oblongata near the basis of the brain. It is this process which produces the well-known mental characteristics of advancing age. The medulla oblongata is obviously the spot to which restorative and rejuvenating treatment can best be applied.

Scientists recognised two forms of old age—premature senility and the genuine old age that comes with years. Both of these seem to be cured by the electrical treatment devised by Dr. Althaus. Not alone does this treatment restore the feeling of youth, it is claimed by its inventor that it also produces the appearance of it. In cases of genuine old age, especially in its early stages, it has been found that by a cautious use of the constant current to the brain, and more especially to the vasomotor centre in the bulb, the progress of the weakening of the system is greatly retarded.

A week or two after the commencement of the treatment the energy of the system is habitually found to have been considerably enhanced. The old man takes fresh interest in the affairs of daily life; he resumes his work with some amount of vigour, he has a more erect carriage, he walks and stands better, and he has a quicker digestion and a healthier sleep. His general aspect is so much changed that he looks five or ten years younger than before the treatment was commenced. His peevish and querulous temper is no longer a source of trouble to his friends, for the pleasures of life are once more open to him.

The Government of Bombay have submitted a scheme for the colonisation of the Jamrao and Sind desert canals land on the principles followed in the Punjab for the colonisation of the Chenab district. The matter is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

A DEPUTATION from the Rangoon Municipal Committee composed of Messrs. J. G. Findlay, J. Gillespie and D. D. Coath waited on the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma the other day and discussed at length the question of the frequent changes in the Municipal Presidency. His Honour promised to communicate his views to the Municipal Committee.

WITH reference to the fodder famine, that is already acute in Western Rajputana, it is stated that Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh of Jodhpore has placed an order for 3½ lakhs of rupees worth of hay and grass with Mr. J. Abbott, of the Bundelkhand Grass and Cattle Farm at Jhansi. This is not the first time that the proprietor of this establishment has had to meet extraordinary demands on an emergency. During the famine of 1896-97 he was called upon to supply the whole of the hay for the Mobilisation Reserve of the Bengal Command, and, in spite of the fact that Jhansi was in the centre of the worst famine area, he succeeded in meeting the order punctually. Obviously a farm that can do such things is an institution of the greatest value to the country.

THE QUEEN AS A HOUSEKEEPER.

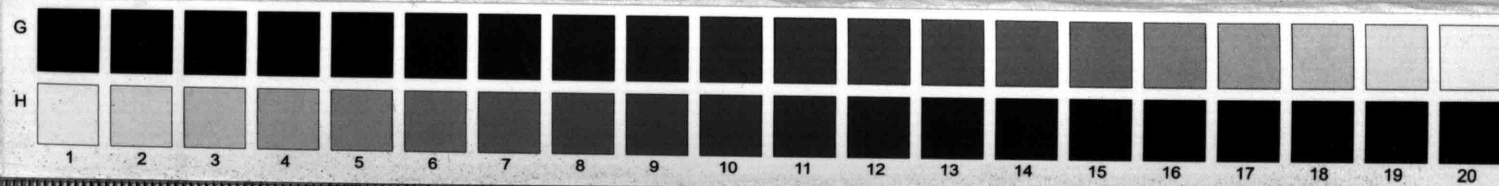
MR. E. M. JESSOP in a very interesting article on the Queen's private apartments at Windsor Castle in the summer number of the "Pall Mall Magazine," speaks of the Queen as a housekeeper. He says: I am sure very many of my readers will be glad to hear that, notwithstanding the enormous amount of business with which she has to deal, the Queen is to a large extent her own housekeeper. The first thing every morning a paper of suggestions from the clerk of the kitchen is placed before her, from which in her own hand she orders the menus of the day, both for herself and such of her grand children as may be with her. These menus are at once sent to the kitchens, gardens, and other departments concerned, to obtain the viands required; and their contents duly entered, together with the quantities of materials used, in the books which are kept in the Royal Kitchen. The Queen's chef receives a salary of £500 per annum, and has as satellites four master cooks, two yeomen of the kitchen, two assistant cooks, two roasting cooks, six apprentices and six kitchen maids, besides pantry-men and other lesser lights. In addition to the great kitchen at Windsor there are the green-room, for vegetables, and the confectionery and pastry kitchen. This last is a most important department, controlled by a confectioner with six assistants and fitted in the most complete manner. All Her Majesty's favourite cakes, biscuits, pastry, etc., are made here and sent by special messengers several times a week to whichever of her residences the Court may be staying at. All stores at Windsor are under proper supervision, no materials being served out without a proper requisition signed by the head of the department concerned. Not a bag of dog-biscuits can even be ordered for the kennels unless on the proper printed form.

TELEPHONING ALONG A BEAM OF LIGHT.

SPEAKING into a searchlight at one station and having the words so uttered distinctly heard by a person standing with a phonographic earpiece at the point where the rays of heat and light are focussed at a distant station, is one of the recent announcements of advance along the line of vocal communication between distant points. A small bulb of carbonised fluff of dandelion-seed is represented as being the successful sensitive instrument by which the voice of the speaker is heard at the extreme end of the light, and is claimed to act just as effectively as the small piece of thin sheet-iron in the ordinary and highly practical telephone. A telephone constructed on such a plan is at least worthy of note. First of all, then, in such a system, we have the parabolic reflector, with its rays of light, at the sending station. The mouthpiece into which a person speaks must be in the same circuit as the electric arc. The parallel rays of heat as they leave this reflector are brought to a focus in another similar one at the receiving station, which has its mouth so directed as to receive the full effects of the searchlight beam. Through a hole at the vortex of this reflector there just a piece of tubing, in connection with the dandelion bulb above mentioned, placed at the focus of the mirror. The tubing terminates in the familiar phonograph earpiece such as is used in central and branch telephone offices by the much-berated and continually complained about "Hello Girl."

The professor of physics at St. Ignatius College, San Francisco, was lately asked regarding this new development in the power of word communication. In an interview which he accorded he demonstrated the principle on which searchlight telephoning is conducted, and gave extracts from scientific works. Father Bell said:—"Ever since the announcement of the electro-magnetic hypothesis of light by James Clark Maxwell, in which he endeavoured to identify light and electro-magnetic radiation, physicists have been strenuously labouring to experimentally verify it. It would be out of place for one in the course of a short conversation to attempt anything like a development of this hypothesis. It must suffice, therefore, if I give you a resume of some of the considerations which render the identity of light and electro-magnetism probable, according to the minds of modern scientists. In the first place, we see that it is possible that electricity may be nothing more than a modification of the ether—a modification of that imponderable medium which fills all space and permeates all matter. Secondly, all electrostatic phenomena may be conceived as resulting from a strain, or separation of the ether, while electro-dynamic action is readily conceived as a real motion or translation of the ether through a conductor. Thirdly, the electro motive force, which is the cause of the flow of electricity, just as the flow of liquid is due to the force resulting from difference of level, may result from difference of ether pressure. So much, then, for the mere possibility. What now about actual facts? Can we discover any similarity and identity in light and electro-magnetic phenomena about us. All I know that the vibrations of light are propagated in a direction at right angles to the direction in which the light is moving, while the magnetic field of a current is propagated in planes at right angles to the direction in which the current is flowing. The velocity of propagation of light agrees very nearly with the velocity of propagation of electro-magnetic induction. Again, in certain crystals, the difference of transparency in the direction of certain axes corresponds to the direction in which such crystals conduct electricity. All these reasons, drawn from possibility and fact, have rendered highly probable to modern scientists not only the intimate connection between light and electro-magnetism, but have led up to an actual identification of the two. Owing to the premature death of Maxwell in 1879 this hypothesis was never completed; but by the subsequent labours of others, and especially Hertz, it has advanced to its present shape, ranking to-day as a physical theory the most perfect expression of physical truth.

A RECORD case of childbirth occurred at Bletchley near Fenny Stratford, where a widow gave birth in a lodging-house to six children. They were five months children, and were all stillborn. Dr. M. Cholson embalmed the bodies and sent them to the Anatomical Museum, London. The poor woman was subsequently removed to the union in firmity at Fenny Stratford.



THE DOOM OF A WOMAN WHO WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL.

The ancient history of Florence is full of strange stories, but none is more strange than that of the woman who when Ferdinand de Medici was on the throne of Florence, was brought before the tribunal of blood her figure enveloped in an ample cloak that represented a winding sheet and her face covered with a mask representing a grinning skull. This woman who seemed like a spectre preparing to join the carnival of death was Rosaura Montalbani and she was charged with the strange offence, shorn of legal technicalities and language of being so beautiful that she disturbed the peace of the city and that her presence in it was inimical to its welfare. She was so beautiful that when she stood at her window, crowds gathered to gaze upon her and blocked up the thoroughfares. She was so beautiful that the employees of the Dual Government spent their time watching her instead of attending to their official duties. She was so beautiful that when she went into shops, the tradesmen would accept no payment, but laid their treasures at her feet, and courted her smiles. She was so beautiful that when she entered the church of Santa Maria del Fiore, people gazed upon her instead of at the altar, and instead of comfort and salvation took home from the sacred place only pain and condemnation.

If the fishermen in the morning drew from the Arno the corpse of a pale youth, it was a luckless lover, who had killed himself for Rosaura's sake. If the watchmen at night stumbled over the lifeless form of a velvet-clad knight, he was sure to have perished for the sake of Rosaura, who perhaps had smiled kindly upon him, and thereby excited the furious envy of his rivals. If rich fathers died suddenly they were surely to have been poisoned on account of Rosaura. Once famine prevailed in the city. The populace, infuriated by the want of breads forced their way into the Montalbani Palace whose mistress bathed in milk and gave banquets daily. When the frantic mob burst the doors Rosaura came down the marble steps entirely alone, her wonderful golden hair floating over her shoulders fanning herself with a diamond-mounted fan—and the people were silent before her. The ringleaders kissed the hem of her robe and the throng retired. Thrice her beauty was denounced by outraged fathers whose sons had fallen victims to Rosaura's charms, and she appeared before the judges. But when she looked into their faces they forgot the law; when she wept they vowed she was innocent; when she smiled they were prepared to declare themselves guilty for her sake.

When a steward of the Duke's funds appropriated treasure and killed himself after squandering it all for the beautiful Rosaura's mercy could be no longer shown. She was ordered to be branded and for ever exiled from Florence. The pillory was erected in front of the notorious Palazzo Pizzi and in sight of vast crowds the beautiful woman was led forward on the scaffold. The executioner took the red hot iron, the silk robe from Rosaura's shoulder, but instantly, instead of the hot iron he pressed his burning lips upon her shoulder. The just cost the executioner his head, but saved Rosaura. No one could be found to execute sentence upon her. The marvel reached the Duke's ears. Cosmo de

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE NEW PLANET.

ON a certain August night last year Herr G. Witt, of the Observatory of Urania in Berlin, took a photograph of a particular portion of the heavens, giving that picture a very long exposure so that the minutest stars might find a record there. When the plate was developed it was found that no one part of it, amid the hundreds of dots which were star images, was traced a little streak, that streak indicating a body which was in movement. This body turned out to be an asteroid, one of those little planets, which during the present century, have been discovered to the number of four hundred and thirty-two, not counting this new one, which has been named Eros. The new asteroid turns out to be by far the most important of all its kindred, not because of its size, for it is only a very small body, but because at one part of its journey round the sun it will approach this earth nearer than will any other of the heavenly bodies—our moon alone excepted. The importance of such a near neighbour in space means that by its aid the actual distance of the sun and other bodies can be far more accurately measured than was possible, before its discovery. It will also materially help in the more accurate determination of the movements of comets. Indeed, the discovery of our little neighbour Eros is one of the most important astronomical events of the century.

NEW USES FOR GLASS.

THE United States Consul at Lyons has recently reported upon a new kind of pavement which has for some months been in use in Lyons, and has satisfactorily withstood the effects of heavy traffic. It is made of glass prepared in a peculiar manner, the product being known as ceramic stone. The factories where this material is prepared are of great extent, and we are told that in the yards were seen many tons of broken bottles, which the superintendent described as their "raw material." The treatment consists in heating the broken glass to the melting point, and then compressing it by hydraulic pressure and forming it into moulds. For paving purposes the glass is made into bricks eight inches square, and is scored with cross lines, so that when the pavement is completed, it resembles a huge chess-board. The glass loses its transparency and brittleness, and is said to be devitrified; it is as cheap as stone, and far more durable. It will resist crushing, frost, and heavy shocks; and can be employed for tubs, vats, tiles, chimneys, etc. It is available for all kinds of decorative purposes; and a large building made of the material form an attractive object at the Paris Exhibition next year.

AGRICULTURAL REVIVAL IN ESSEX.

SIX years ago the farmers in Essex were in a bad way. Thousands of acres were going out of cultivation, and landowners were glad to let their farms for a shilling per acre if the tenant would pay tithe and taxes. Later on they offered their holdings free for a year or so to tenants who would undertake the trouble and expense of cultivation. A number of Scottish farmers came upon the scene, accepted the terms, and the experiment has succeeded.

It is no longer profitable to grow wheat in Essex, and the new farmers at once turned their attention to the dairy. They soon discovered that the industry would not pay them if the middleman were allowed, in the case of milk, to continue to absorb the lion's share of the profits. They therefore combined, formed a protection society, and determined to give the milk to the pigs rather than sell it below a certain price. Even under the revised conditions the middleman secures about one hundred per cent. of the profits, and it thus comes about that a small milk-business, employing only two carts, will often produce an income of one thousand pounds per annum. There are few farmers now-a-days who can hope for anything like such a return for their far more arduous and anxious labours.

TELEGRAPHY WITHOUT WIRES.

OWING chiefly to sensational newspaper reports with regard to the possibilities of wireless telegraphy, the public have been looking forward to the time when our streets shall no longer be excavated for the disposition of telegraph cables, and when our house-tops shall be free from a network of metallic spider webs. Mr. Preece's lecture before the Society of Arts will have dashed these pleasant hopes to the ground, for he has most emphatically shown that wireless telegraphy, in its present form and limited speed, cannot be named in the same category as the old system, and that it is only useful for special service under abnormal conditions. A curious instance of its efficacy is afforded by the collision in a fog of a steamer with the only lightship upon which Marconi's apparatus is as yet established. This lightship, which is twelve miles to the north-west of the South Foreland, was able to wire news of her predicament; and had the need arisen, lifeboats would have been started from three or four ports to her assistance within a few minutes of the accident.

NEW LIFE-SAVING DEVICE.

THERE was recently a successful trial in St. Catherine's Docks, London, of a method of rendering boats unsinkable—the invention of Mr. E. S. Norris—a method which is as simple as it is effective. Supposing that he wishes to apply the invention to a lifeboat which is already fitted with water-tight compartments, he would fill those spaces with an indefinite number of close tubes, each only a few inches long, made of some strong impervious material, such as waterproof paper. But a boat with such compartments is not necessary, for the little cases can be held in a canvas band, which can be nailed along the sides of any ordinary row-boat and render it quite unsinkable. The principle can also be applied to life-belts and buoys—replacing the cork ordinarily used with a great saving of expense. In the trials referred to a specially designed boat, with canvas-held tubes along her sides, as well as fore and aft, righted herself after being purposely capsized, although fitted with a mast and sail; while an ordinary boat, similarly treated, failed to sink, although the bung was removed to fill her with water, and seven men were a board. These hopeful experiments were witnessed by representatives from the Admiralty and various shipping authorities.

FIRE EXTINCTION.

LORD FORTESCUE has in a recent letter to the *Times*, advocated a system of water-supply, which he has adopted in his own country-house as a preventive against fire—a system originally suggested by Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C. E. It is unfortunately only applicable when a constant supply of water under high-pressure is available. Upon every floor of the building to be protected there is provided a hose fitted with a nozzle; but this hose, instead of being the usual size, is only one inch in diameter. On the other hand, it is so light that a woman or child can easily control it, and a single valve will charge it with water at a moment's notice. The idea is to attack the flames before they get untamable, and before the arrival of a fire brigade. Every one knows that a gallon of water at this stage is more effectual than a hundred gallons later on. Another consideration is that the damage to decorations, furniture, and in factories, to delicate machinery by the tremendous impact of a two or three inch stream of water—very often far more serious than that wrought by the flames—is almost altogether avoided by the use of the smaller hose, protected in such a manner and with a weekly "fire-drill" for the inmates, any house or factory should be practically safe.

LENGTH OF LIFE.

ACCORDING to M. I. Holl Scholling, of Brussels, there is a very easy way of calculating the age to which a human being may reasonably expect to live, but it is only applicable if his present age lies between twelve and eighty-six years. The method is really an old one, and was originally discovered by the mathematician Demovier, who, in 1865, emigrated from France to England, and became a member of the Royal Society. The rule is this: Subtract your present age from 86, divide the remainder by 2, and the result will give the number of years which you may expect to live. The rule may be approximately correct for some ages, and represents, perhaps, the nearest solution of an insoluble problem at which we can arrive.

NEWS from Tirah states that at the weekly fairs now held there, arms and ammunition are in great demand.

LADY MACKWORTH YOUNG is understood to be going home this cold weather, returning to India next March.

AFGHAN reports speak of disturbances at Kabul between regiments which have taken different sides with the factional following of Princes Habibullah Khan and Nussurullah Khan. It is stated that there is now a sharp enmity between the two Princes.

MR. BARBER, the Government Botanist, Madras, has submitted the report of his visit to the sugarcane fields in the Bellary, Trichinopoly, and Coimbatore districts. The object of his tour was to ascertain whether the disease known as rind-fungus was present in these districts. The Bellary canes seem to be healthy, those in the Trichinopoly district not quite so much so, though no serious disease is present. The Government have read Mr. Barber's report with interest, and directed that it should be communicated to all Collectors. The Board of Revenue has asked for a further report on the matter which will be forwarded in due course.

A LOST LEG.

A CURIOUS story comes from New York. A German Benevolent Society secured to its members the payment of £40 at death for funeral expenses. One of the members had the misfortune to lose a leg, and he thought that as a portion of his body was dead, he was entitled to claim a fourth of the total payment—viz., £10. The society disputed the claim, but eventually agreed to pay 40 dols. (£8) for the leg. As the rules of the Society provided that the payment due to members must be applied exclusively to funeral expenses it was stipulated that the whole of the £8 should be devoted to the burial of the deceased leg. Some days after the member, who was of the mite persuasion, followed his leg to Brooklyn Cemetery.

WHERE FOUR COUNTRIES MEET.

ABOUT five miles south-west of Aix-la-Chapelle, that well-known junction where so many summer tourists will shortly be jumping in and out of trains to the cry of "Achen, Achen! Funf Minuten Aufenthalt!" there is a tiny little village community called Altenberg, or village Montagne.

This little strip of a few hundred acres owes allegiance to no king, or kaiser, or president. It is an autonomous Republic, smaller than Andorra or the Principality of Monaco. Its population is nearly 3,000, and they are mostly farmers, agriculturists, and miners. There are no police, no soldiers, and (happy land!) there are no taxes to pay.

In 1816 this little corner of Europe was declared by the Powers to be "neutral ground," and it has maintained its independence ever since. There is a burgomaster, and a council of elders of the village community. They administer such law as is found necessary, but are not overworked in this respect as crime is practically unknown. The country is picturesque, and for such a small domain, fairly varied in its scenery. The land is split up into little individual allotments in the manner so familiar to travellers on the Continent. The prosperity of the inhabitants depends upon a certain valuable mine, but a small amount of farming is also successfully carried on.

Both French and German are spoken, and are very often mixed up in a curious manner. For instance, if an Altenberger wants to tell his child to chase the fowls out of the garden, he says, "Chossez die Hühner aus dem jardin."

Altenberg's chief claim to notoriety, however, lies in the fact that the border of this tiny domain actually touches those of the adjacent countries of Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

Of the thousands who pass through Aix-la-Chapelle on their summer holidays to one of the many German baths, few are probably aware that they are close to this quaint little community.

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A FEW NEW TESTIMONIALS.

Hon'ble Justice Promoda Charan Banerjee, High Court, Allahabad.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the superior quality of the perfumery manufactured by Mr. H. Bose. His enterprise deserves encouragement.

Kumar Debendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur of Moheshpur.

I have used your "Kuntaline" oil. It is very efficacious for strengthening the hair, promoting its growth and preventing wading off and premature grayness. I have derived much satisfaction from its good perfume.

Mr. Motilal Mehru Advocate High Court, Allahabad.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the high quality of Mr. H. Bose's perfumery. I have tried several of them and find them very fresh and delicate. They are just as good as any imported perfumery. In my opinion Mr. Bose deserves every encouragement.

Mr. S. Sinha, Bar-at-law, Allahabad.

The perfumery manufactured by Mr. H. Bose of Calcutta, will bear favourable comparison with the imported European and American perfumery, and should therefore be patronized by persons interested in the course of developing Indian industries, by giving want support they can to such enterprises.

GOLDEN OPINIONS.

Sirdar Dyal Singh Bahdur, Sirdar Sahab the Premier nobleman of the Punjab.

I have much pleasure to certify that I have tried Bose's oil and scents carefully, and found them really good. The Kuntaline oil especially, I have no hesitation to say, is superior to all I have hitherto had occasion to use. The scents are also nicely made and if not better may stand comparison with foreign makes fairly.

Mr. Manohar Lal, Lahore.

Your Kuntaline has been recommended to me by my friends here as the best hair oil in existence.

Mr. Justice P. C. Chatterji, of Lahore.

I have used the perfumed oil Kuntaline manufactured by Mr. H. Bose, as well as his Essence Chanel, and consider both exceedingly good. At the same time they are cheaper than articles of similar quality prepared by European manufacturers. I hope the public generally and native community in particular will largely patronize Mr. Madan Gopal, Barrister-at-law, Lahore.

I have much pleasure in saying that Kuntaline is an excellent hair oil and the ladies of my family consider it to be an excellent preparation. The "Delkhosh" Essence I consider to be very superior to English perfumes.

Lala Lajpat Rai, Pleader, Chief Court, Lahore.

I have used Mr. H. Bose's Kuntaline oil and Scents and found them really good. They are in no way inferior to similar articles prepared by European manufacturers.

Mr. Kali Prassonn Roy, Government Pleader and leader of the Lahore Bar.

I have pleasure in stating that the oils and perfumery manufactured by Mr. H. Bose, are excellent and no less inferior to articles of English manufacture.

Dewan Krishna Kishore, Rais, Grandson of Dewan Bhagwan Das, Lahore.

Your Kuntaline and Essences have given me entire satisfaction. The oil has a very sweet fragrance and does not make the hair sticky. The Essences are simply nice.

Maharajah J. G. dindra Nath Bahadur, of Natore.

I have much pleasure in certifying that I have had occasion to introduce the use of Kuntaline in my family. I was satisfied with its superior fragrance, and its tendency to promote the growth of hair. It is the best of its kind, and its wider circulation is desirable.

The Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji, President of the Eleventh Indian National Congress.

I tried Mr. H. Bose's Essences, and have no hesitation in recommending them both on account of their excellence, and also because home-made articles of this kind should be encouraged.

Raj I. Rajman Maharaj Asaf Nawazwan Murti Mohur Bahadur, Hyderabad, Deccan.

I have pleasure to say that your Essences or Flower Extracts have given me entire satisfaction. Please send another box of the finest quality Essences which I want to present to His Highness THE NIZAM.

Mr. N. Vinkata Rao, Assistant Commissioner of Mangalore.

I am very much pleased with your Essences "Delkhosh" and "White Rose".

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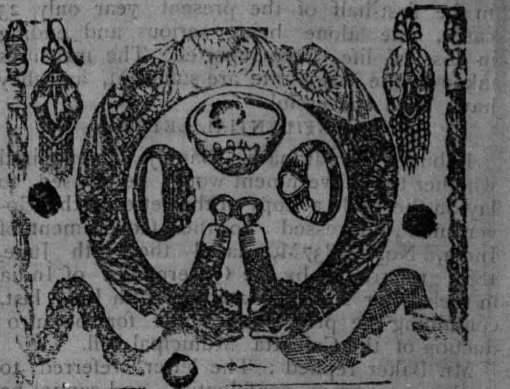
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